FLOWER COMICS
flowersフラワーコミックス

ブロンズの天使

7

さいとうちほ
Chiho Saito Presents

flowers
FLOWER COMICS

ブロンズの天使
7
さいとうちほ

小学館
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結婚してもナターリアのことをあきらめきれないダンテス。一方、プーシキンは、舞踏会でナターリアのそばを離れようとしないダンテスに激怒し、再び彼との決闘を考えはじめる。ふたりの男の情熱的な愛は、悲劇へと突き進んでいくことになり…。ロシアの大地を揺るがす究極のラブロマンス、感動の最終巻!!

flowers
フラワーコミックス

Bronze no Tenshi
Volume 7 Chapter 25

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Bronze no Tenshi 7

Chiho Saito

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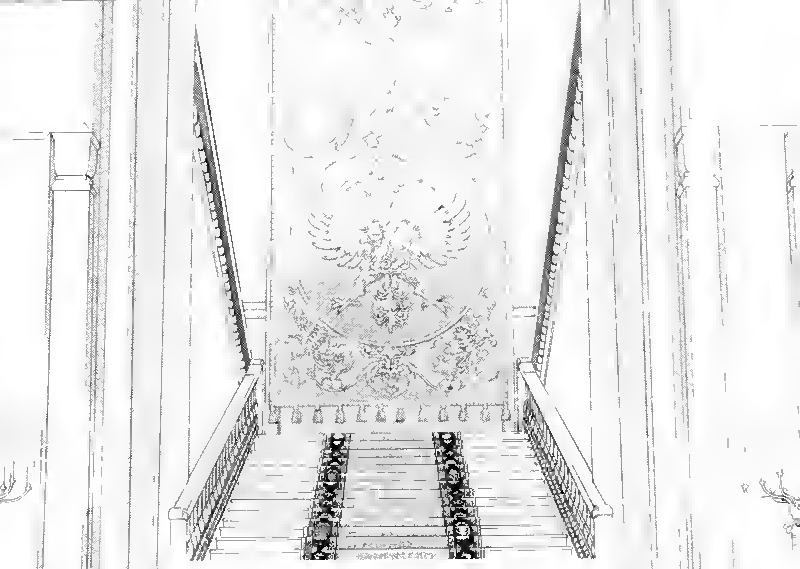

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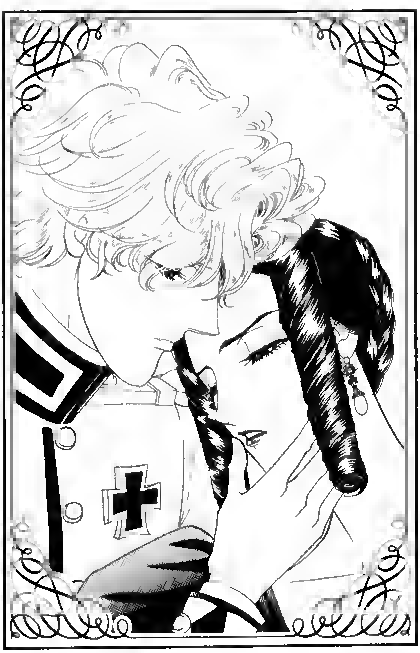


Vol. 25 The Night Before

FIRST LIEUTENANT D'ANTHES AND EKATERINA HAVE RETURNED FROM THEIR HONEYMOON
HE IS COURTING MRS PUSHKIN AGAIN
IT'S A GOOD THING THEY ARE RELATIVES NOW
ONLY TWO WEEKS AFTER THE WEDDING?
THE POOR BRIDE
GENERAL BENKENDORF,
I HAVE SOME INFORMATION FOR YOU
ABOUT THOSE THREE
IDALIA POLETIKA
INDEED EKATERINA IS ENDURING IT BRAVELY
AS A WOMAN WHO IS MARRIED TO A YOUNGER AND HANDSOMER MAN

WATCHING THEM IN SILENCE, PUSHKIN SEEMS CONSTANTLY ON THE VERGE OF BURSTING INTO JEALOUS FLAMES
EVERY CONTREDANSE AT EVERY BALL WITH NATALIA
ON THE OTHER HAND, THE HUSBAND BOLDLY VENTURES TO DANCE
AND— HOW DO PUSHKIN AND HIS WIFE REACT?
HE LOOKS SO TERRIFYING THAT NOBODY DARES APPROACH HIM
MRS. PUSHKIN SEEMS A BIT BEWILDERED BUT CONTINUES TO DANCE
AS D'ANTHES WHISPERS ARDENT WORDS IN HER EAR,

WON'T YOU STOP YOUR UNWARRANTED PROVOCATIONS TOWARD PUSHKIN?
HAVE I DONE SOMETHING IMPOLITE?
I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU ARE IN A PAINFUL POSITION,
BUT PLEASE STOP BRINGING OTHER PEOPLE INTO IT.
PLEASE
I WISH YOU WOULD LOOK ME IN THE EYE WHEN YOU SAY THAT
I AM ONE OF YOUR FAMILY TOO,
SISTER
THINK ABOUT EKATERINA'S FEELINGS.
STOP HURTING MY BELOVED FAMILY.
MAY I DANCE THE NEXT WALTZ WITH YOU?
DANCE IT WITH EKATERINA.
I AM GOING TO THE DINING TABLE WITH MY HUSBAND.
OH, PITY.
THE CONTREDANSE HAS ENDED.

SA-SHA,
I'M HUNGRY.
EKATE-RINA
Yes.
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING LET'S GO TO THE DINING TABLE,
MY WIFE
blah
blah
blah

SASHA?
WHAT HAPPENED?
I DON'T FEEL TOO WELL
IT'S SUFFOCATING IN HERE
I'M GOING TO THE BALCONY I NEED SOME FRESH AIR
I'LL GO WITH YOU
NO, PLEASE, GO ON AND EAT
SINCE THAT SNOWY NIGHT,
HE'S BECOME SAD, VULNERABLE...
AND DISTANT.

CAN'T WE GO BACK...
TO THE WAY WE WERE BEFORE?
RIGHT?
HUH?
YOU WERE DAYDREAMING
THE DOCTOR WHO TREATED THE CALLUS ON MY WIFE'S FOOT...
TOLD ME THAT HE ALSO VISITS YOU.
Ha! Ha! Ha!
AND?
I ASKED THE DOCTOR...
IF HE KNEW WHETHER YOUR "CORPS" WAS MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN MY WIFE'S "COR."
STOP, PLEASE
THAT'S ENOUGH
THIS DISCUSSION IS IN POOR TASTE.

NOTE: D'ANTHES IS MAKING A PUN IN FRENCH. THE WORD "CORPS" (BODY) AND "COR" (CALLUS) SOUND VERY SIMILAR

HEY, D'ANTHES!
PAT
A FRENCHMAN SHOULDN'T MAKE MISTAKES IN FRENCH
STOP THOSE CRUEL AND NASTY JOKES!
HA HA HA
WA HA HA
PARDON ME, SO-METHING MUST HAVE BEEN LOST IN TRANSLA-TION
BUT FINALLY I GOT YOU TO LOOK ME IN THE EYE

DO SOMETHING ABOUT HIM!!
PUSHKIN—
LET'S TALK IN HERE.
YOU SHOULD TELL YOUR WIFE TO TAKE MORE CARE IN HER BEHAVIOUR
SHE SHOULDN'T HAVE COME TO THIS PARTY
WHY DO YOU SPOIL HER SO?
MY WIFE HAS DONE NOTHING WRONG
YOUR SON IS THE ONE TRYING TO START TROUBLE!
ABSOLUTELY ALL OF THIS IS OUR FAULT?
EXACTLY!

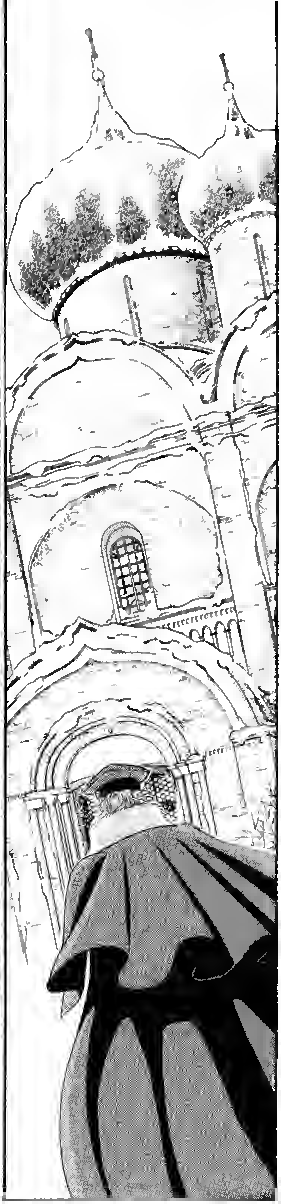
GET HIM OUT OF ST PETERS-BURG!
CHANGE HIS ASSIG-NMENT, WHATEVER IT TAKES!
WITH YOUR CONNECTIONS, THAT SHOULD BE AN EASY TASK!
HE AND I CAN'T BREATHE THE SAME AIR!
YOU ARE FORGET-TING THE PROPER COURSE OF THINGS.
THIS IS A PROBLEM WE SOLVED WITH THE SETTLE-MENT.
SOLVED?
Hah
YOU ARE THE ONE WHO WROTE THAT ANONY-MOUS LETTER
I SHOULD SHOW THE TSAR MY PROOF.
OR SHOULD I WRITE A NOVEL OF IT INSTEAD?
I'M SURE THIS SCANDAL-LOVING SOCIETY WOULD LOVE A BOOK LIKE THAT
YOU INSULTED NOT ONLY ME, BUT THE TSAR
THE PROUD TSAR WILL NEVER FOR-GIVE YOU

EXILE.
YOU MUST KNOW THAT WHATEVER THE OUTCOME, IT WOULD INVOLVE YOUR DOWNFALL!
IT'S TOO DANGEROUS TO LEAVE THIS MATTER IN PUSHKIN'S HANDS.

I...
WANT TO HAVE A SERIOUS DISCUSSION WITH HIM,
AND YET ALL HE DOES IS PLAY PRANKS
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE HERE.
YOU ARE IN THE SPOTLIGHT
IF YOU ARE DEEP IN CONVERSATION MAKING SERIOUS FACES, WILD RUMOURS WILL START
WELL...
HOW ABOUT THIS?
YOU CAN MEET AT MY HOUSE AGAIN
NO.
THERE YOU ARE, ALEXANDER SERGEEVICH.

YOU KNEW I WAS HERE,
AND SO YOU PURPOSELY MENTIONED D'ANTHES TO NATALIA, DIDN'T YOU?
OR
ARE YOU APPALLED THAT SHE WANTS TO MEET WITH D'ANTHES?
ARE YOU RELIEVED BY YOUR BELOVED WIFE'S REPLY?
SO VERY VIVID
OH, WHAT AN IMAGI-NATION YOU HAVE
YOU SEEM TO BE EN-JOYING YOUR-SELF
WHEN YOU DEVISE A PLAN, YOU ARE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL AND MYSTE-RIOUS WOMAN
SO,
LONG AGO, WHEN YOU APPROACHED ME, I RAN AWAY AT ONCE
I WAS FRIGHTE-NED
IT WAS A COINCI-DENCE

FRIGHTENED?
OF ME?
YES.
WHAT AN HONOUR, MR. GENIUS!
I ATTRACT YOU?
YOU ARE WRONG
IF NATALIA WERE A WOMAN LIKE YOU, WHO CAN PERFECTLY CONCEAL HER EMOTIONS,
AT THE MOMENT OF MY DEATH, I WOULD DISCOVER THE TRUTH
COULD I TRULY CALL MY LIFE A HAPPY ONE?
I WOULD FEEL AS THOUGH I HAD CHEWED SAND, AND THAT MY LIFE HAD BEEN HELL
DON'T YOU THINK YOUR WIFE IS MORE FRIGHTENING THAN I AM?
WITH THAT ANGELIC FACE OF HERS, SHE WILL DESTROY TWO MEN



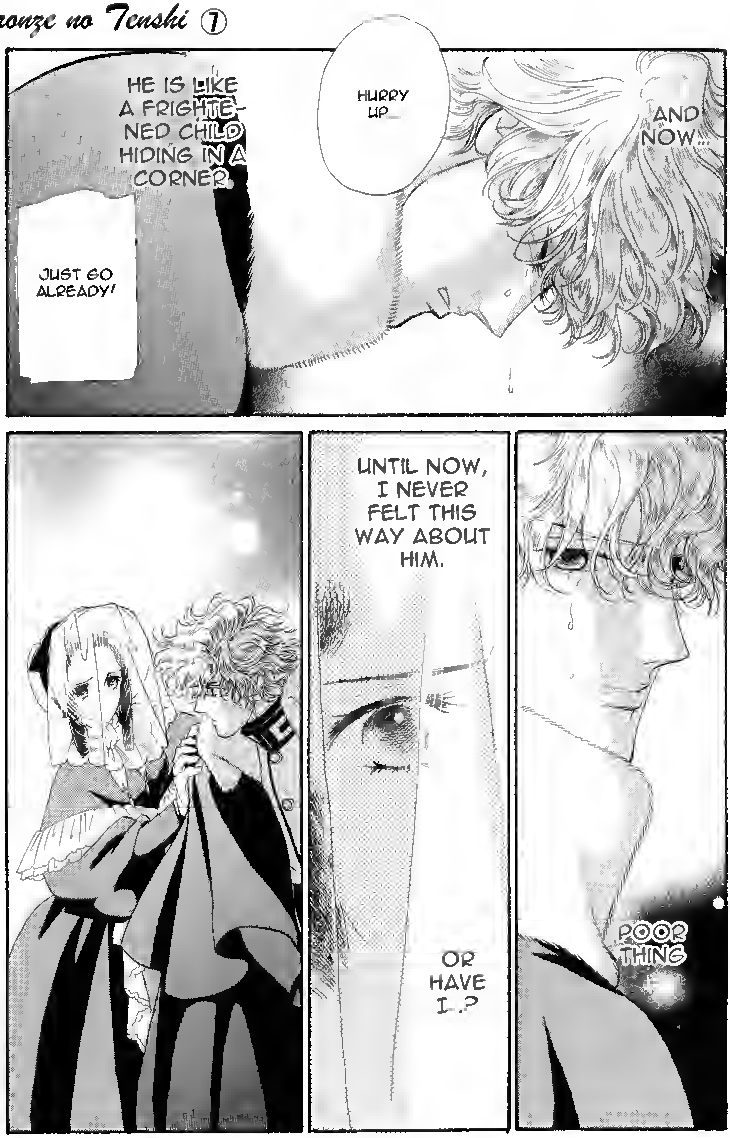
I'M SORRY FOR MEETING YOU HERE IN THIS PLACE
IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE I LAST RECEIVED A LETTER FROM YOU. I WAS SURPRISED.
THIS CHURCH MAKES ME FEEL NOSTALGIC.
YES
I CAME TO TELL YOU TO FORGET THAT NAME "NATALIE" THAT YOU GAVE ME TWO YEARS AGO.
DON'T DO THAT, PLEASE
IT'S YOURS
NO.

NEVER
I WILL FORGET IT
FROM NOW ON, DO NOT CALL ME BY THAT NAME
NO.
I GAVE UP THE IDEA OF FORGETTING LONG AGO
THERE IS NO NEED TO FORGET IT
EVEN THOUGH
YOU ABANDONED ME,
I SECRETLY BELIEVED THAT YOU LOVED ME
MAYBE THAT'S WHY I COULDN'T FORGET IT
WHEN I ABANDONED YOU THAT TIME
I MUST NOT LOSE MY WAY AGAIN
DON'T SAY ANOTHER WORD

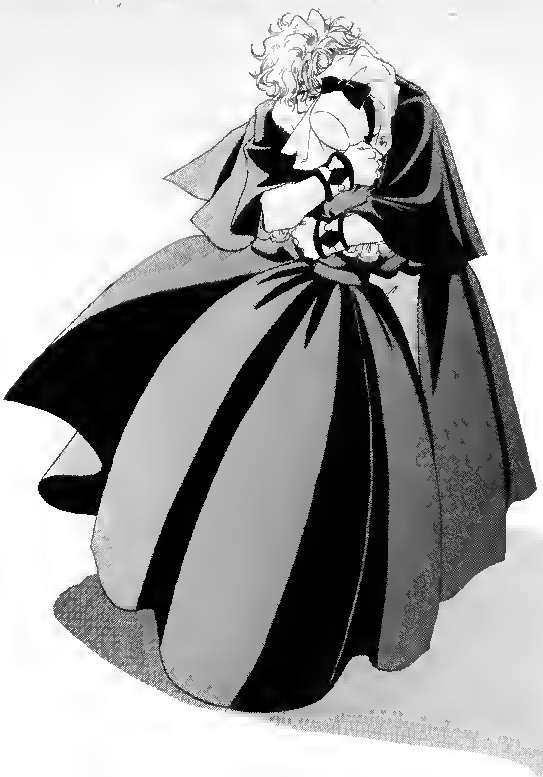
IF YOU SAY "NO"
YOU KNOW MY REA-SONS
TODAY I WAS AFRAID TO COME
BECAUSE I KNEW WHAT YOUR ANSWER WOULD BE
NATA-LIE
BE MINE

I AM GOING TO KILL MYSELF
!
STOP, DON'T DO SUCH A FOOLISH THING
IT'S POINT-LESS TO DO THAT
YOU KNOW THAT TOO
MR. D'ANTHES
GO NOW

HE IS SO DISCOURAGED.
HE USED TO SHINE WITH SO MUCH PRIDE.
EVEN IF HE FRIGHTENED ME, OR MADE ME SAD, OR MADE ME ANGRY
GO QUICKLY!!
IF YOU DON'T GO, I DON'T KNOW WHAT I MAY END UP DOING TO YOU...
ONE WORD FROM HIM WAS ENOUGH TO MAKE ME THE HAPPIEST PERSON, OR THE UNLUCKIEST PERSON.
BECAUSE I LOVED HIM.
BECAUSE HE MEANT EVERYTHING TO ME.


HE IS LIKE A FRIGHTENED CHILD HIDING IN A CORNER.
JUST GO ALREADY!
HURRY UP...
AND NOW...
UNTIL NOW, I NEVER FELT THIS WAY ABOUT HIM.
OR HAVE I..?
POOR THING

I...
FOR THE FIRST TIME, I'M GOING TO DECIDE SOMETHING FOR MYSELF.
NO
AREN'T YOU LEAVING?



MAYBE
...
THIS WAS
THE ONLY
WAY FOR
US.

I will never forgive you.
If you want to avoid a new scandal, then stop plotting against me.
Otherwise I will make sure that everybody finds out the truth that only I know.
Alexander Pushkin.
WHAT DO YOU THINK, ADIP
DO YOU THINK THIS LETTER WILL ANGER HEECKEREN AND HIS SON?
I SHOULD HAVE SENT IT AFTER ALL...
BUT THE SITUATION HASN'T CHANGED A BIT. ON THE CONTRARY, IT HAS BECOME WORSE.
Give me that letter
I DON'T WANT YOU TO DUEL!!
I WROTE THIS THREE MONTHS AGO, DURING THE UPROAR. I WAS TOO SOFT.
AT THE TIME, ZHUKOVSKY CONVINCED ME NOT TO SEND IT.
YOU STILL WANT A DUEL?
EVEN AFTER EVERYBODY'S EFFORTS TO PREVENT IT

ONLY YOU AND I KNOW ABOUT THIS LETTER
IT IS OUR SECRET
Jump
ADI.
SEAL THIS LETTER AND DELIVER IT TO BARON HEECKEREN
NIKITA,
YES
grab
Chze
WAIT, NIKITA!
DON'T DELIVER IT
PROMISE ME—
THAT YOU WON'T SAY ANYTHING TO NATALIA

IT'S TERRIBLE, EVEN NOW.
IT'S NOT HER FAULT
SHE HAS SUFFERED TO HER BREAKING POINT
I ONLY WAITED FOR HER TO COME BACK TO ME
AND I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING
ABSOLUTELY NOT!
IT'S NATALIA'S FAULT THAT YOU ARE IN THIS TERRIBLE SITUATION!
SHE'S THE ONE WHO'S MOST RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL OF THIS!
HAVEN'T YOU CONSIDERED DIVORCE?
IT WON'T END IF WE DON'T DUEL.
THIS IS A PROBLEM BETWEEN ME AND D'ANTHES

THERE ARE A LOT OF WOMEN IN THE WORLD
WOMEN AS BEAU-TIFUL AS NATALIA
AND WOMEN WHO ADMIRE YOUR TALENT AND LOVE YOU MORE THAN ANYTHING—
I CONSIDERED DIVORCE, IF THAT HAD BEEN HER WISH.
BUT—
IT'S NOT WHAT I WANT.
I DIDN'T GIVE IT ANOTHER THOUGHT

IS YOUR LOVE FOR NATALIA...
SO GREAT...
ADI

I HAVE TO RE-MEMBER EVERY-THING.
HIS RICH GOLDEN HAIR OVER HIS FORE-HEAD,
HIS CHEEKS, HIS LIPS, HIS BROAD SHOULDERS ...
HIS BLUE-GREEN EYES.
I WON'T BE ABLE TO TOUCH THEM AGAIN.

DON'T CRY.
I KNOW YOU CAME HERE TO PART WAYS WITH ME.
BUT I'M SURE THAT IF WE BECOME ONE, YOU WILL CHANGE YOUR MIND.
NO.
NEVER.
THIS WILL BE OUR FIRST AND LAST TIME.
NO.
I WILL CONTINUE LOVING YOU.

NO.

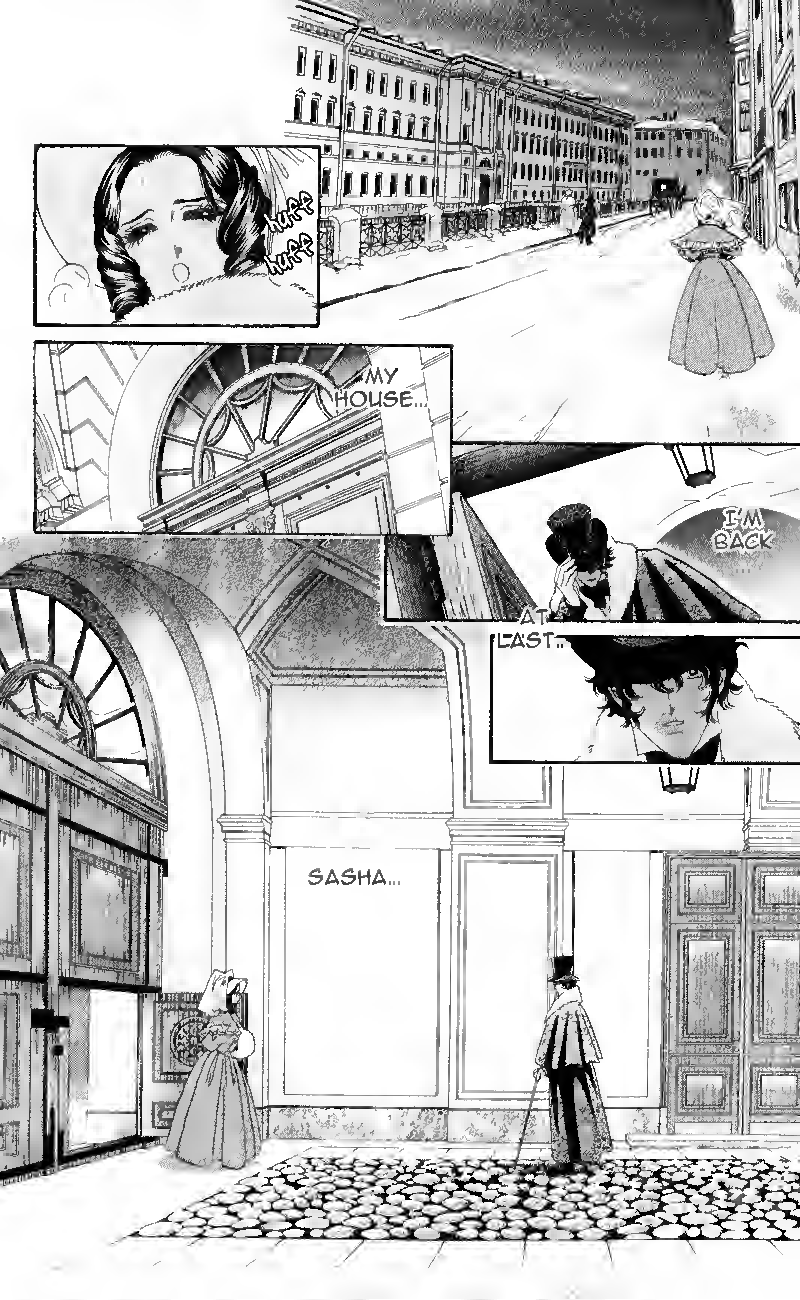
ALL YOU SAY IS "NO"...
YOU ARE GOING BACK TO YOUR HUSBAND
AS IF NOTHING HAPPE-NED
PUSHKIN SAID THE SAME THING ... WHEN WE FIRST MET.
I CAN'T PRETEND THAT NOTHING HAPPENED.
I'M SURE THAT...
WHEN HE LOOKS AT MY FACE, HE WILL KNOW.
AND HE WON'T FORGIVE ME.
PUSHKIN WILL REALI-ZE THAT I WAS NOT AN APPRO-PRIATE WIFE FOR HIM...
NATA-LIE...

WHY DIDN'T I TRY...
TO SNATCH YOU AWAY BEFORE?
BEFORE YOUR PASSION COOLED DOWN

DON'T CALL ME "NATALIE" ANYMORE...
RATHER THAN "MRS PUSHKIN,"
CALL ME...
SIMPLY "NATALIA NIKOLAEVNA."

NATALIE...

Slam


HUH?
HUH?
MY HOUSE...
I'M BACK
AT LAST...
SASHA...

YOU ARE LATE.
I'M GOING OUT.

WELCOME BACK HOME
SEE YOU LATER

Holland Embassy
HEECKEREN
THE MAN WHO SENT THIS DEFAMATORY LETTER HAS ONLY DUELLING IN MIND,
HE IS A MAD DOG
PUSHKIN IS NO ORDINARY MAN
AH BUT THIS TIME
MAKE UP YOUR MIND, HEECKEREN!
YOU HAVE TO ACT BEFORE HE TELLS THE TSAR ABOUT YOU.
WE WILL PROTECT YOU, NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS.
SEND A LETTER TO PUSHKIN
CHALLENGING HIM TO A DUEL,
FATHER

GEOR-
GES...
AND
...
TELL
HIM THAT
YOUR SON,
GEORGES
D'ANTHES,
WILL DUEL
IN YOUR
PLACE.
IT'S DES-
TINY
YOU CAN'T
STOP IT,
FATHER.

THEN PLEASE MAKE THE CHANGES IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR PREVIOUS ARRANGEMENT.
VERY WELL, PUSHKIN.
Clop
Clop
Clop

SWISH
WHOA...
WHOA!!

IT'S NOT PROPER DUELLING ETIQUETTE FOR THE CHALLENGER HIMSELF TO DELIVER THE CHALLENGE...

HURRY UP AND KILL ME!
PUSHKIN!!
YOU HAVE BEEN BLESSED WITH A CHANCE TO KILL ME AT LAST!
DON'T COM-PLAIN,
TAKE THIS CHANCE ...
NO MATTER WHAT!!

I'M REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO IT.
I WON'T LET IT GO.
LET'S PUT AN END TO THIS TOMO-RROW.
ONE OF US MAY DIE.
I WANT TO BE RELEA-SED FROM THE PAIN OF THESE PAST THREE MONTHS.
I WANT IT AS SOON AS POS-SIBLE.
WHAT'S THIS?
HE IS JUST LIKE ME.
LIKE ME.
WHEN I WAS A RECKLESS YOUNGS-TER.

ALWAYS ONE STEP AWAY FROM DEATH.
ONE DUEL AFTER ANOTHER.
LOSING LOVER'S HEAD FOR ANOTHER'S WIFE.
I WILL TAKE MY SECOND, VICOMTE D'ARCHIAC WILL ACT AS MY SECOND.
I WORRY ABOUT MY HOUSEHOLD.
IF THEY FIND OUT ABOUT THIS DUEL, THEY MAY TRY TO PREVENT IT AGAIN.
PERHAPS HE LOVED NATALIA.
HE IS RISKING HIS LIFE.
PERHAPS, IN HIS OWN WAY...

COME TO THE COUNTESS RAZUMOVSKY'S BALL TONIGHT
WITH O'ARCHIAC
WE WILL DISCUSS ALL THE DETAILS WITH HIM
IF ALL IS DECIDED BY TOMORROW AFTERNOON, THEN WE MAY DUEL THAT EVENING
COME TO THE BALL ALONE.
YES.
SHE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS.

TOMORROW IS
THE DAY...

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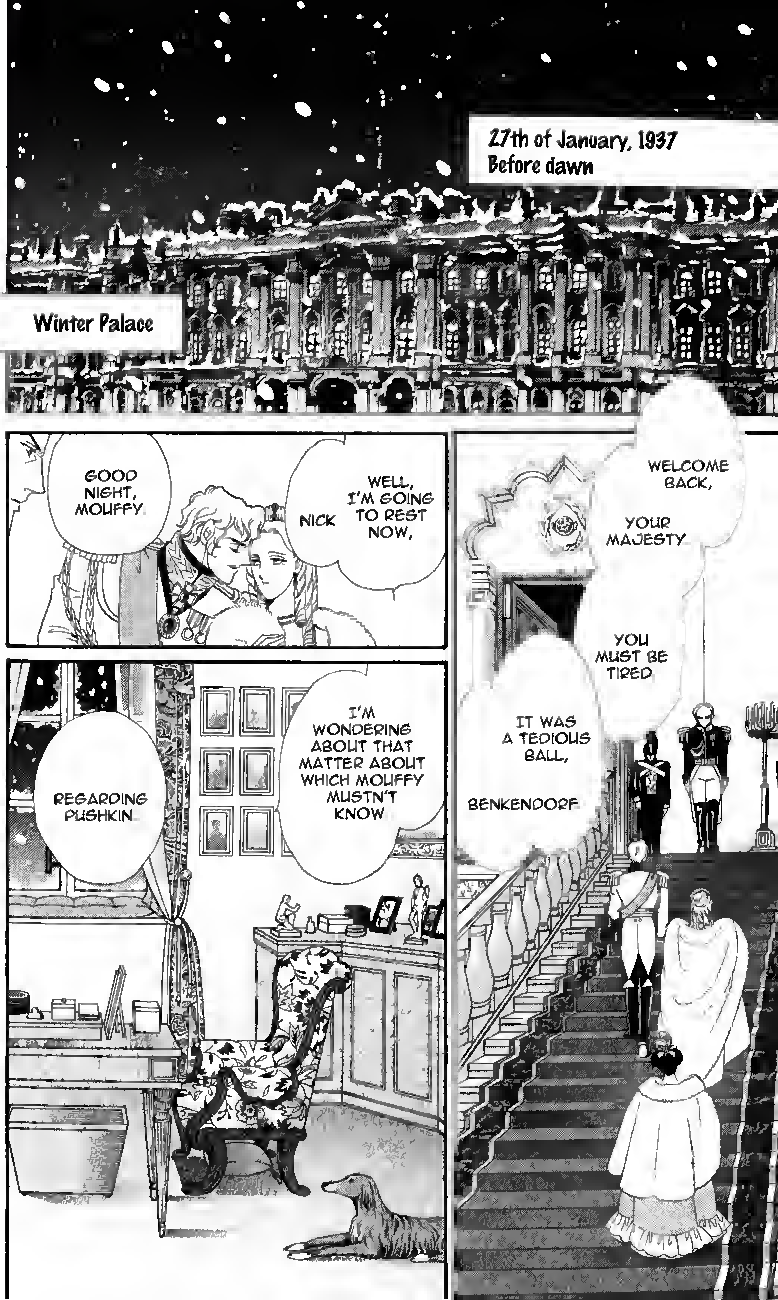
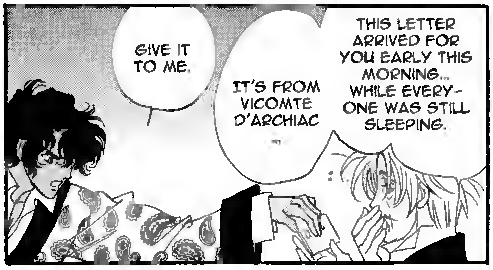
Bronze no Tenshi
Volume 7 Chapter 26

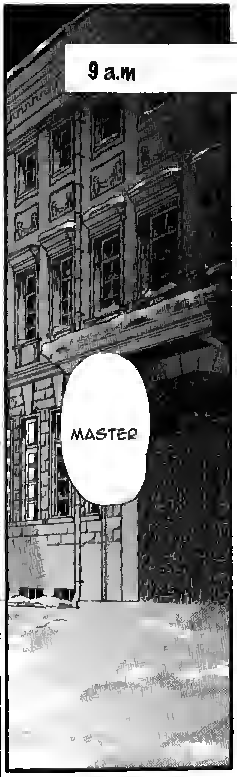
Vol. 26 Duel

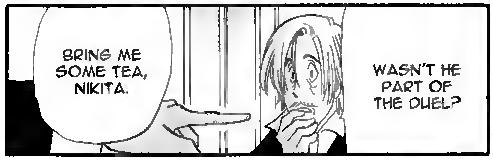

27th of January, 1937
Before dawn
Winter Palace
GOOD NIGHT, MOUFFY
NICK
WELL, I'M GOING TO REST NOW,
WELCOME BACK, YOUR MAJESTY
YOU MUST BE TIRED
IT WAS A TEDIOUS BALL,
BENKENDORF
REGARDING PUSHKIN
I'M WONDERING ABOUT THAT MATTER ABOUT WHICH MOUFFY MUSTN'T KNOW

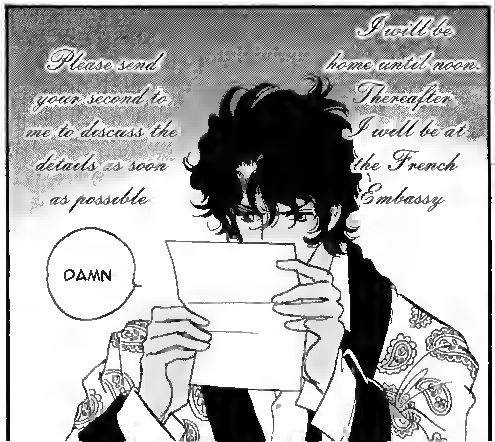
I AM INFORMED THAT HIS DUEL WITH D'ANTHES WILL NOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL SUNSET.
HOW-EVER,
PUSHKIN DOESN'T YET HAVE A SECOND.
HE WILL MEET A FOREIGN ACQUAINTANCE OF HIS AT THIS EVENING'S PARTY
A FOREIGNER? WHAT ABOUT HIS PREVIOUS SECOND?
THE PUNISHMENT FOR ACTING AS A SECOND IN A DUEL IS LIGHTER FOR FOREIGNERS
HE IS IN A HURRY, ISN'T HE?
ANY CHANCE HE WILL BE HINDERED?
HEECKEREN FEARS THAT PUSHKIN WILL TELL YOUR MAJESTY WHO WROTE THAT SLANDEROUS LETTER
I ALREADY KNOW IT.
IT'S TOO LATE FOR THAT.
THE PROBLEM IS THAT THERE ARE ALREADY PEOPLE WHO ARE AWARE OF THE DUEL.
RUMOURS WILL SPREAD, COME DAYLIGHT.
SHALL WE SEND THE MILITARY POLICE TO ARREST THEM AT THE SITE?

SHALL WE USE A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT METHOD?
OR
I
GOOD IDEA


GIVE IT TO ME.
IT'S FROM VICOMTE D'ARCHIAC
THIS LETTER ARRIVED FOR YOU EARLY THIS MORNING... WHILE EVERY-ONE WAS STILL SLEEPING.


9 a.m
MASTER


BRING ME SOME TEA, NIKITA.
WASN'T HE PART OF THE DUEL?


Please send your second to me to discuss the details as soon as possible
I will be home until noon. Thereafter I will be at the French Embassy
DAMN

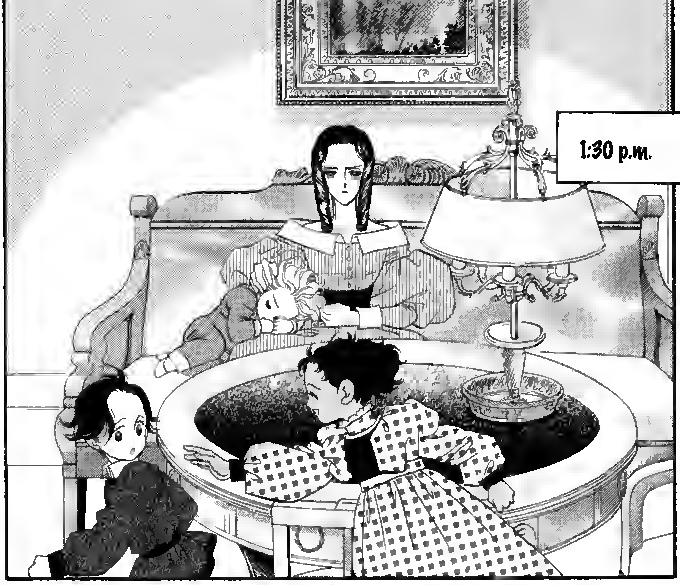
11 a.m
GOOD MORNING
Good morning Natasha
GOOD MORNING, MISS ALEXANDRA
.....
IT CAN'T BE HELPED
THIS IS URGENT DELIVER THIS TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL DANZAS OF THE ENGINEER CORPS
YES
GOOD MORNING, ADI
GOOD MORNING
EATING ALREADY?
HE HAS BEEN UP WORKING SINCE EIGHT O'CLOCK
EVER SINCE AN EARLY LETTER ARRIVED FOR HIM
A LETTER?
FROM VICOMTE O'ARCHIAC, FROM THE FRENCH EMBASSY

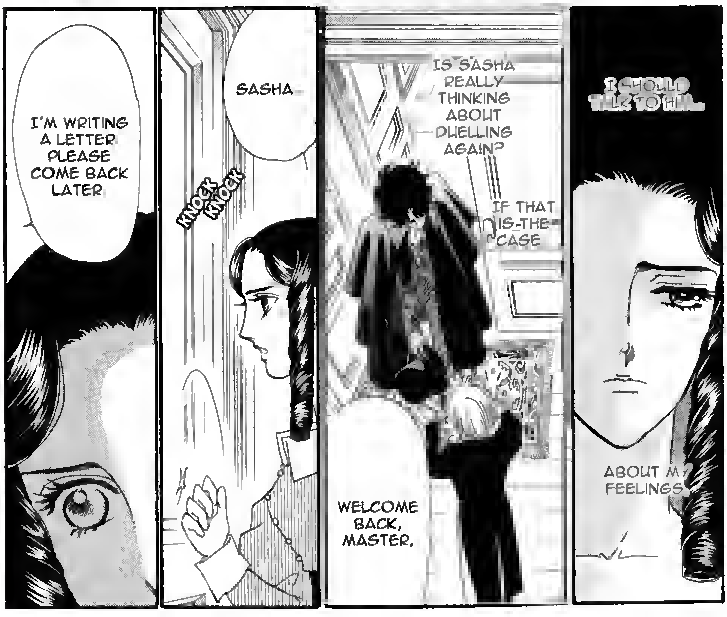
NOT YET
WHY?
DON'T TELL ME
DID YOU RECEIVE A REPLY ON THE LETTER THAT YOU SENT YESTERDAY?
THE ONE ADDRESSED TO BARON HEECKEREN
ARE YOU CRYING?
A LITTLE...
I HAD A SCARY DREAM.
NATALIA ARE YOU AWAKE?
CAN I TALK TO YOU A BIT?
I SEE
MAYBE I'M OVER THINKING.
BUT I WOULD LIKE YOU TO TRY AND PAY ATTENTION TO MR PUSHKIN

Noon
DANZAS!
WELCOME TO OUR HOME!
I HAVE A HUNCH THAT HE HAS ANOTHER DUEL IN MIND.
WHERE? ALREADY?
IT HAS BEEN A WHILE, PUSHKIN!
COME, LET'S GO OUT
LET'S!!
SHALL WE GO?
I AGREE! YOU DON'T NEED TO SAY A WORD!
WE ARE LIKE BROTHERS. I KNOW WHAT YOU WANT EVEN IF YOU DON'T TELL ME! AND YOU ARE THE SAME!!
YES
WE HAVE BEEN FRIEND SINCE YOU WERE ELEVEN YEARS OLD, AND WE LIVED TOGETHER FOR SIX YEARS IN THE LYCEUM
SASHA

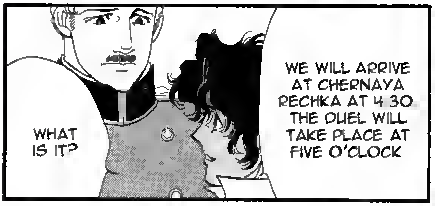
YES, YOU WILL ACT AS MR PUSHKIN'S SECOND.
I WILL BE D'ANTHES'S
ME?
French Embassy
THIS EVENING!?
LET'S SIGN THE DOCUMENTS THAT STATE THE TERMS FOR THE DUEL THAT WILL TAKE PLACE THIS EVENING.
I'M GOING HOME FIRST COME BY AND SHOW ME THE DOCUMENTS LATER.
VICOMTE D'ARCHIAC KNOWS EVERYTHING BECAUSE HE WAS THE OTHER MAN'S SECOND LAST TIME

D'ARCHIAC,
DON'T CHANGE ANY OF MY TERMS
LEAVE IT TO ME
I REGRET THAT A MATTER LIKE THIS INVOLVES A WRITER THAT I SO ADMIRE
I WILL DO MY DUTY SINCERELY TO THE LAST
Hmmm
BUT THAT MEANS
IT WILL BE JUST THE SAME AS THE LAST DUEL
I HEARD ABOUT THAT DUEL. IT WAS HORRIBLE!
YOU COULD DIE
THAT'S WHY I BROUGHT YOU HERE
YOU ARE A FRIEND WHO WILL LEND A HAND WITHOUT MY HAVING TO ASK YOU
YES, I KNOW!! BROTHER!!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH! NOTHING BAD IS GOING TO HAPPEN, DANZAS!!

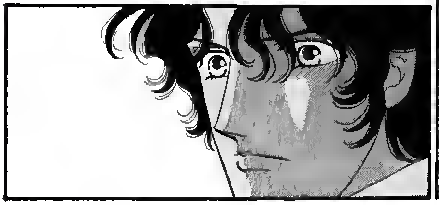

1:30 p.m.


I'M WRITING A LETTER. PLEASE COME BACK LATER.
KNOCK KNOCK
SASHA
WELCOME BACK, MASTER.
IS SASHA REALLY THINKING ABOUT DUELLING AGAIN?
IF THAT IS THE CASE
I SHOULD TALK TO HIM...
ABOUT MY FEELINGS

I MUST GO TO THE KURAKIN ARMOURY TO CHOOSE A PISTOL FOR THE DUEL.
YES
HIRE A SLEIGH FOR US
WE WILL MEET AT FOUR O'CLOCK AT VORIF PASTRY SHOP
ROGER


WE WILL ARRIVE AT CHERNAYA RECHKA AT 4:30. THE DUEL WILL TAKE PLACE AT FIVE O'CLOCK
WHAT IS IT?

YOU SPEAK AS THOUGH WE ARE GOING FOR A PICNIC
YOU HAVE A FAMILY, YOU KNOW
THAT MAN MUST REALLY BE DETESTABLE



3 p.m.
SORRY FOR BEING LATE, PUSHKIN
THIS IS THE DOCUMENT THAT D'ARCHIAC AND I WROTE
THANKS
WITH THIS, STEP ONE IS DONE
WHAT'S LEFT?

TAKE CARE, MR OANZAS
ARE YOU CHANGING YOUR CLOTHES? LET ME HELP YOU.
I HAVE TO GO OUT AGAIN SOON
YES— SORRY, I'VE BEEN VERY BUSY TODAY
SASHA MAY I COME IN?

THIS IS YOUR FINEST SHIRT, ISN'T IT?
COULD WE...
TALK A LITTLE BIT?
YES...
SASHA...
I HAVE NEVER TOLD YOU
WHAT I WAS THINKING ABOUT

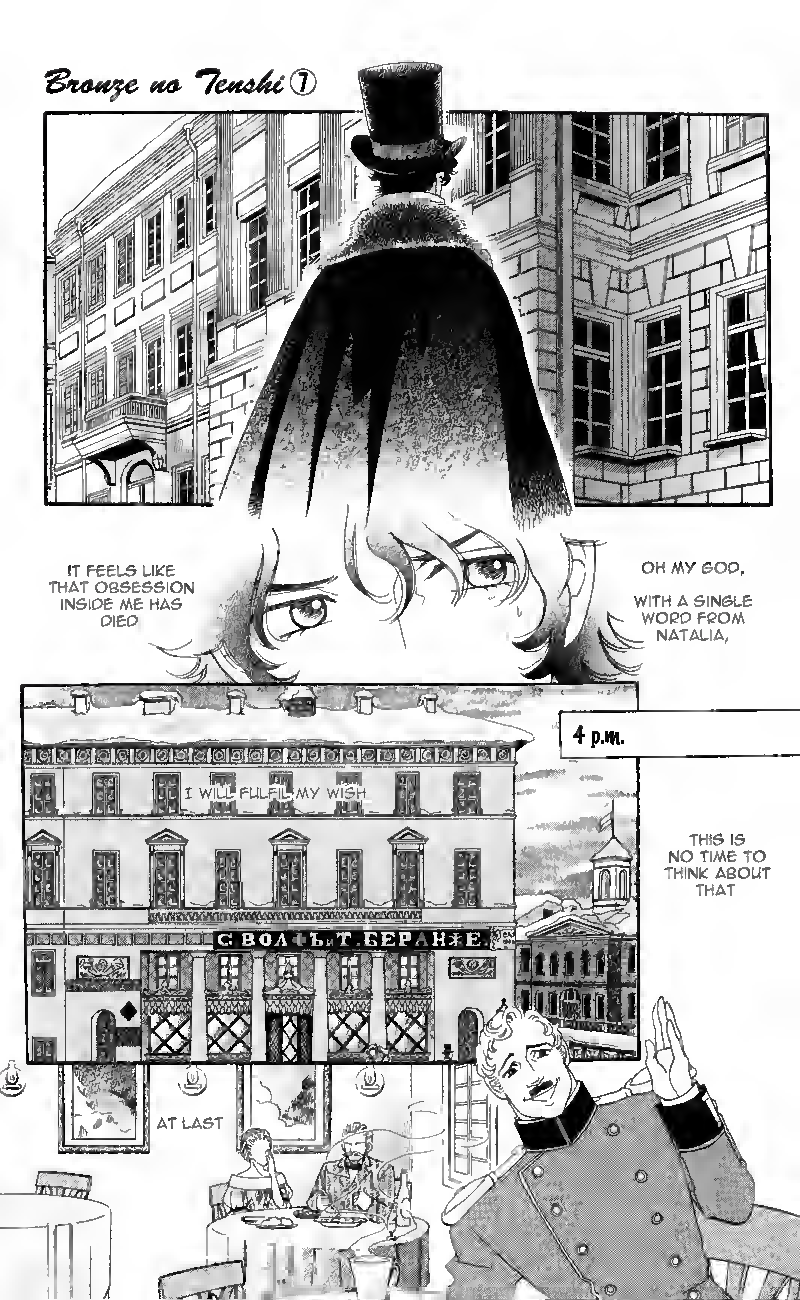
I'M SORRY
FOR IMPOSING ON YOU,
AND BOTHERING YOU...

PLEASE,
LET'S GET MARRIED AGAIN
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
IT CAN'T BE THAT SHE KNOWS ABOUT THE DUEL, CAN IT?
OF COURSE,
THAT IS IF YOU CAN FORGIVE A USELESS WIFE LIKE ME
IF THAT'S NOT THE CASE,
LET'S DIVORCE!

I
WHAT ABOUT D'ANTHES?
WHY ARE YOU GOING THAT FAR...?
HE KNOWS IT TOO
BUT HE...
IT'S COMPLETELY OVER BETWEEN US!
IT'S OVER!!
BELIEVE ME...

SO IT MUST BE TRUE THAT SHE HAS ENDED THINGS WITH D'ANTHES AND THAT SHE WANTS TO MARRY ME AGAIN

I'M GOING OUT...


IT FEELS LIKE THAT OBSESSION INSIDE ME HAS DIED
OH MY GOD,
WITH A SINGLE WORD FROM NATALIA,
4 p.m.
I WILL FULFIL MY WISH
THIS IS NO TIME TO THINK ABOUT THAT
AT LAST

I HAVE TO CLOSE THIS CHAPTER
FOR THE SAKE OF BEGINNING A NEW DAY
TO CHERNAYA RECHKA

DID YOU WAIT FOR LONG, VICOMTE D'ARCHIAC ?
NO WE HAVE JUST ARRIVED HERE, MR DANZAS
BUT IT IS NOT YET TIME. WE CANNOT START UNTIL IT GETS DARK
THEN LET'S BEGIN WITH THE PREPARATIONS, IN ACCORDANCE TO THE DOCUMENTS YOU WROTE

WAIT A MOMENT. YOUR STEPS ARE TOO LONG, MR DANZAS
"THE DISTANCE BETWEEN THE TWO DUELLISTS MUST BE TWENTY PACES."
19, 20.
NO, THIS IS THE PLACE
FIVE PACES!
THEY HAVE TO STEP FORWARD FIVE PACES FROM HERE.
VERY WELL.
"WAIT FOR THE SIGNAL TO RAISE YOUR PISTOLS"...
WOULD YOU MAKE THE SIGNAL?
I WILL MARK THIS SIDE, TOO.
IN OTHER WORDS, THE MAXIMUM DISTANCE IS TEN PACES.
IT'S FORBIDDEN TO STEP OVER THE BOUNDARY LINE.
I WILL USE MY COAT.
LET'S MARK THE BOUNDARY LINE HERE.
AT THE SIGNAL,
IF YOU ARE WITHIN BOUNDARIES, YOU MAY FIRE AT WILL.
ONLY ONE SHOT

HOW MANY TIMES IN MY LIFE HAVE I LISTENED TO THESE INSTRUCTIONS?
FOR THE RETURN SHOT.
THE DUELLIST WHO FIRES FIRST, IN THE CASE THE OTHER DUELLIST DOES NOT FALL, MUST WAIT IN PLACE
AS MANY TIMES AS NECESSARY
UNTIL ONE DUELLIST FALLS AND CANNOT RETURN FIRE
EACH TIME,
JUST LAZILY AIMING, SOMETIMES INJURING SOMEONE, SOMETIMES GETTING INJURED MYSELF
AND THEN RECONCILING AND BECOMING FRIENDS...
BUT THIS TIME IS DIFFERENT
IF THE RESULT IS UNCLEAR AFTER BOTH DUELLISTS HAVE FIRED ONE SHOT EACH...
IN MY NOVEL "EUGENE ONEGIN," ONEGIN AND LENSKY DUELLED ON A SNOW-COVERED PRAIRIE LIKE THIS ONE...
THE SAME STEPS WILL BE REPEATED FROM THE BEGINNING,

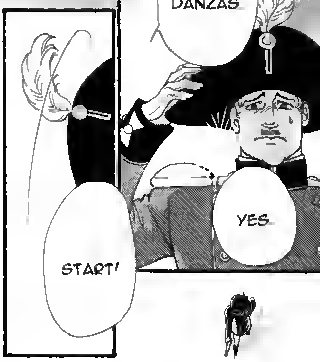
THE DUEL IN WHICH LENSKY IS KILLED
ROGER
I WILL HELP TOO.
LET'S TREAD IT DOWN TOGETHER, DANZAS
THERE IS A LOT OF SNOW
"When you are 37 years old
I see a white head and a white horse...
Possibly because of a white man.
A big misfortune will befall you.
If you can overcome it you will live a long life.
but if you can't...
A PREDICTION...
TWENTY YEARS AGO
A GERMAN FORTUNE-TELLER SAID THOSE WORDS TO ME.
YES, I CAN OVERCOME IT

NATALIA RETURNED TO MY SIDE
WE WILL LIVE AND GROW OLD TOGETHER
PUSHKIN,
I HAVE TO KILL HIM
THE PREPA-RATIONS ARE READY
CLICK
CLICK
GULP

"Please, consider her feelings as your top priority."
"I'm sure she will make a prudent decision."
Ekaterina! I'm coming out!
Okay
"But the one who lost out was Ekaterina."
"All the more because she doesn't know anything about the new duel!"
"I won't allow it, ever!"
"I'm sure you will come back alive."
"Thank you, Father."
"I'm grateful to you from the bottom of my heart."
"Father, if I die, I want you to take care of Ekaterina."
"What are you talking about? Don't speak of death!"
"If I die..."

THUD

THUD
EVEN IF I SURVIVE,
WHAT HOPE DO I HAVE IN STAYING ALIVE?
I DOUBT SHE'LL FORGIVE THE MAN WHO KILLED HER HUSBAND.


MR DANZAS
YES
START!

MAYBE SHE'LL KEEP HER BEAUTIFUL MEMORIES OF ME IN HER HEART
IF I DIE...
THUD
IF I LIVE ON FOREVER IN HER HEART, I DON'T CARE IF I DO DIE
THAT'S MY ONLY SALVATION NOW IN ANY CASE, I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO SEE HER AGAIN

ARE YOU GOING TO WASTE YOUR SHOT IN THE GROUND?
DO YOU WANT TO RECONCILE? PUSHKIN,
IF YOU ALSO LOWER YOUR PISTOL, WE CAN DO THAT...

"Hurry up and kill me, Pushkin!"
HE... HAS WISHED TO DIE SINCE THE BEGINNING.
HE WANTS ME... TO KILL HIM.

"Let's divorce!"
WHY IS HE GOING THAT FAR ?
"It's completely over between us!"
"He knows it too."
WAS IT REALLY LIKE THAT?
THAT MEANS HE WON'T DRAW BACK.
PERHAPS...

NO, SURELY...
I'M REALLY A CUCKOLD
NO MORE HESITATION I WILL KILL HIM

ALL MY SUFFERING UP UNTIL NOW...
WILL END IN THIS DULL MANNER?
THAT'S NOT WHAT I WANT.
ABSOLUTELY NOT.
BUT...
THAT'S NOT A DUEL.
THAT'S JUST MURDER.

DUELS...
ARE ABOUT OVERCOMING ALL THE BONDS ABOVE GROUND AND ACHIEVING FREEDOM.
IT IS AN ACT THAT MAKES THE LIVES AMONG INDIVIDUALS SHINE.
I CANNOT ALLOW THE SPIRIT OF DUELLING TO BE SOILED.
GEORGES D'ANTHES...
FACE ME HONESTLY.

GAZE AT THE MAN WHO IS DUELLING YOU, RISKING HIS LIFE.
YOU ARE LOST INTO YOUR OWN TROUBLES, BUT I WON'T LET YOU USE ME AS A TOOL TO THROW YOUR LIFE AWAY

MAYBE I CAN ONLY SHARE MY CURRENT FEELINGS WITH YOU.

WE HAVE BEEN ENDURING HARDSHIPS FOR MANY MONTHS BECAUSE OF NATALIA.

I WON'T LET IT FALL INTO OBLIVION.

PUT YOUR HEART ON IT LIKE ME.
NOW I RECOGNISE YOU AS MY RIVAL.

STEP
STEP
BANG

PUSHKIN
thud
PU
I WAS HIT IN THE STOMACH
WAIT- I'M GOING TO STAND UP!
IT'S MY TURN TO FIRE
THE DUEL MUST GO ON. GIVE ME MY PISTOL!

I'M GOING TO FIRE.
AND YET MY BODY ACTED OF ITS OWN ACCORD.
PLEASE, KILL ME.
BANG

YSS!!
D'ANTHES?

D'ANTHES?
D'ANTHES!!
HOW IS HE? IS HE DEAD?
FALL
HIS ARM IS INJURED
AH..
HOW STRANGE..
I THOUGHT I WOULD FEEL GOOD IF I KILLED D'ANTHES.
BUT IN THAT MOMENT, EVERYTHING WENT PITCH BLACK FOR ME..

OH MY GOD, YOU ARE SEVERELY INJURED!!
YOU HAVE A BIG HAEMORRHAGE!!
PUSHKIN, ENOUGH ALREA...
THE NEXT ROUND, SURELY
WHEN WE CAN MOVE AGAIN,
WELL, IT'S ALL RIGHT
STAGGER
!

HANG IN THERE,
MY FRIEND, MY BROTHER!!
PUSHKIN!?

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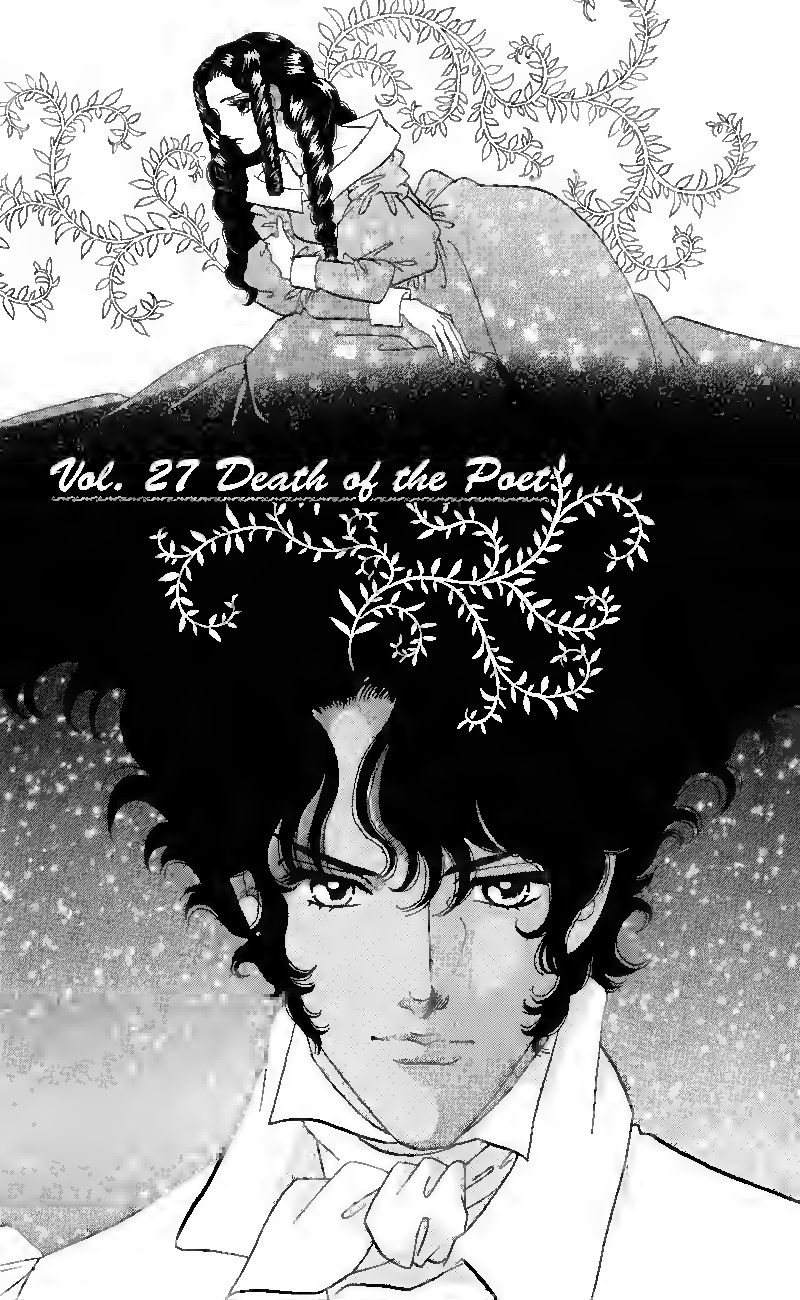
The Barcardle Team

Bronze no Tenshi
Volume 7 Chapter 27


Vol. 27 Death of the Poet

St. Petersburg
6 p.m.
VERY SOON WE WILL ARRIVE AT YOUR HOUSE
HANG IN THERE, PUSHKIN.
THIS COACH THAT D'ANTHES LENT US JOLTS TERRIBLY
I MUST ASK SOMETHING OF YOU, DANZAS
WHAT IS IT?
GO INTO THE HOUSE FIRST AND EXPLAIN THAT SOMETHING HAS HAPPENED
SAY NOTHING TO FRIGHTEN NATALIA
SHE HASN'T THE SLIGHTEST IDEA
THAT HER HUSBAND WAS IN A DUEL.
CRASH

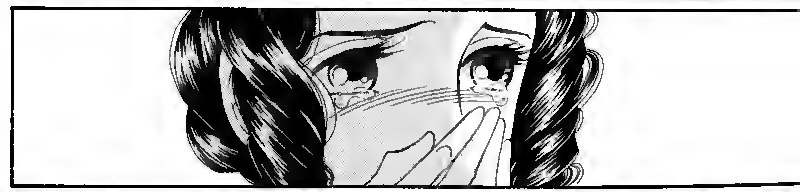
I DON'T BELIEVE IT...
IT HAS TO BE A LIE!
!
IT CAN'T BE...
MRS PUSHKIN
SASHA
IT'S TERRIBLE
OH, MASTER...
WHY DID YOU DO SUCH A FOOLISH THING?
SOMEONE! HURRY, SUMMON A DOCTOR!

AH... TAKE ME TO MY STUDY ROO...M
THERE IS SO MUCH BLOOD
POURING FROM...
HIS STOMACH.
MY LADY...?
KER-SNIP
KER-SNIP
CUT HIS SHIRT.
I NEED A CHANGE OF CLOTHES
NATALIA FAINTED FROM THE SHOCK...
I DON'T WANT HER TO SEE MY INJURY
PLEASE, UNTIL THE DOCTOR COMES...
DON'T MOVE, MASTER!
HOW IS IT, DANZAS?
IS MY INJURY SEVERE?

OR, SPASSKY ISN'T HERE YET?
NO, HE ISN'T...
BECAUSE IT'S MY FAULT?
CAN'T I EVEN SEE HIS FACE?
PLEASE, WAIT UNTIL WE CALL FOR YOU!!
DON'T LET NATALIA COME IN!
WHY?
HMM... IT'S A BIT...
WOOTA!
SASHA
!
I KNEW ABOUT IT AND I DION'T STOP HIM EITHER!!
HE'S ONLY INJURED, GET A GRIP!
BUT IT'S MY FAULT... IT'S MY FAULT THAT HE...
IT'S NOT THAT...
I'LL GO!!
CALM DOWN, NATALIA!
THEN WE SHOULD SUMMON ANOTHER DOCTOR...

I COMMITTED A SIN...
DR. SCHOLTZ, COME THIS WAY. HURRY!!
AND NOW GOD IS GOING TO TAKE AWAY THE PERSON MOST DEAR TO ME!!
DOCTOR...
PLEASE, I BEG OF YOU, BE FRANK WITH ME I WAS SHOT IN THE ABDOMEN
I FEEL A SHARP PAIN, AS THOUGH MY BACK WAS ON FIRE, AND THE BLEEDING WON'T STOP...
IS IT... A FATAL WOUND?
THAT'S MY DIAGNOSIS, BUT MY SPECIALTY IS IN WOMEN'S HEALTH. LET US WAIT FOR A DIAGNOSIS FROM YOUR FAMILY DOCTOR. HE WILL ARRIVE SOON, AS WILL THE COURT PHYSICIAN, DR. ARENDT.
OH... DR. SPASSKY, AND DR. ARENDT, TOO...
CERTAINLY— YOU ARE IN A DANGEROUS SITUATION.

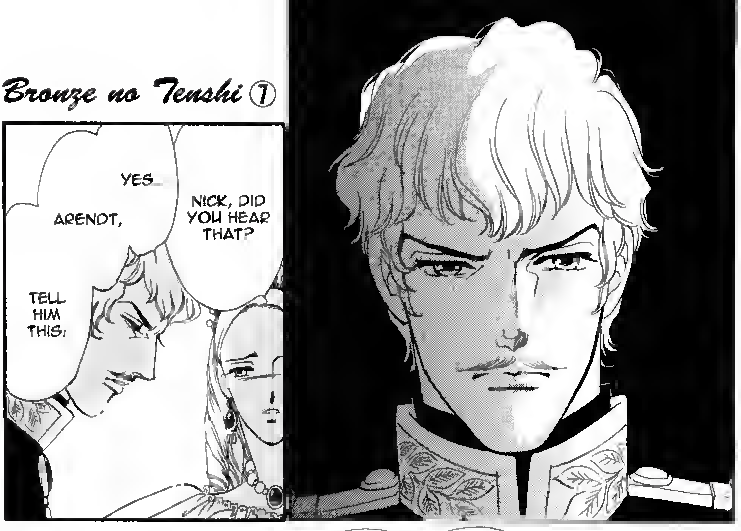
THE BULLET MAY BE NEAR THE SACRUM
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO REMOVE IT
OUR PRIORITY IS TO STOP THE BLEEDING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
LET'S COOL IT WITH ICE
YES
I AGREE
PUSHKIN,
DO YOU WANT SOME OF YOUR CLOSE FRIENDS TO VISIT YOU?
DO YOU THINK I ONLY HAVE HOURS LEFT, SPASSKY?
NOT AT ALL.
I ONLY ASK BECAUSE I THINK SUCH A PLEASANT DISTRACTION WOULD DO YOU GOOD
SPASSKY, I ASK THAT YOU DON'T RAISE MY WIFE'S HOPES TOO MUCH
NATALIA HAS NO SELF CONTROL.
ALLOW HER IN HERE ONLY WHEN I TELL YOU TO
I'M ALREADY RESIGNED,
BUT MY POOR WIFE'S REPUTATION WILL BE TORN TO SHREDS AFTER THIS

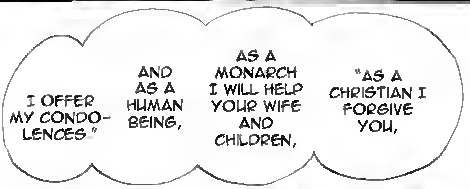


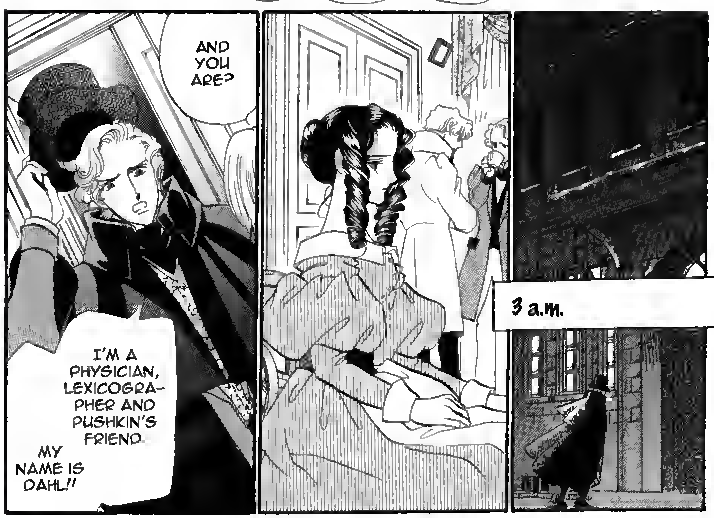
SASHA...
DOES IT HURT?

D'ANTHES...
HIS LIFE IS IN NO DANGER...
WAS ONLY SHOT IN THE ARM...
SA...
NO...
IT SEEMS THE BLEEDING FINALLY STOPPED...
I'M SO VERY GLAD...
I CAN HOLD YOU AGAIN LIKE THIS...
DON'T BLAME YOURSELF, UNDER-STOOD?
YOU ARE NOT TO BLAME FOR WHAT HAPPENS TO ME...
I ACTED OF MY OWN WILL...
MR ZHU-KOV-SKY...
PUSHKIN IS SEVERELY INJURED...
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE ENDED UP DUELLING!
DANZAS! YOU BIG IDIOT!!
WHY DID YOU HELP PUSHKIN IN HIS DUEL WITH THAT MAN?
PRINCE VYAZEMSKY...
I'M SORRY...
COULDN'T YOU SEE THE RISK?

AUNT!!
IS IT TRUE THAT DR. ARENDT WENT TO INFORM THE TSAR?
EVEN A PRIEST HAS COME.
IS SASHA'S CONDITION THAT BAD?
HE MAY LIVE ANOTHER DAY OR TWO.
PUSHKIN BEGS YOUR MAJESTY'S FORGIVENESS FOR DISOBEYING YOUR ORDERS
WHAT?
HE ALSO ASKS FOR FORGIVENESS FOR DANZAS, HIS SECOND.


YES...
ARENDT,
NICK, DID YOU HEAR THAT?
TELL HIM THIS:


I OFFER MY CONDOLENCES."
AND AS A HUMAN BEING,
AS A MONARCH I WILL HELP YOUR WIFE AND CHILDREN,
"AS A CHRISTIAN I FORGIVE YOU,


AND YOU ARE?
I'M A PHYSICIAN, LEXICOGRAPHER AND PUSHKIN'S FRIEND.
MY NAME IS DAHL!!
3 a.m.

AH...
YES, IT'S A GREAT HELP!! DR. ARENDT WENT TO SEE THE TSAR, AND PUSHKIN'S CONDITION IS DETERIORATING...
I HEARD WHAT HAPPENED AND I WANTED TO HELP...
!.....
AHHH...
Shock

NATALIA!! YOU CAN'T GO IN THERE!
SASHA IS CRYING…
PUSHKIN?
AAAAH…
HE FELL FROM THE SOFA
BECAUSE HE WAS WRITHING IN PAIN
PUSHKIN…
!

!
DON'T LET HER IN
GO NOW.
LET ME BE BY HIS SIDE...
AH...
GOD...!!
AAH...
NOO!
I WILL DO ANYTHING!!
I OFFER YOU MY LIFE INSTEAD OF HIS...

GRIND
IT WILL BE A COMFORT TO YOU.
IF YOU CAN'T ENDURE THE PAIN, CRY OUT.
HE'LL RIP OFF HIS OWN NAILS.
NO WAY... SHE WILL HEAR IT...
SORRY, BUT I WON'T...
A MOMENT OF MY OWN COMFORT WOULD MEAN ENDLESS DISTRESS FOR NATALIA...
PUSHKIN
GIVE HIM OPIUM OR SOMETHING!
AS DOCTORS YOU HAVE TO DO SOMETHING TO RELIEVE HIS PAIN!
HELP SASHA, PLEASE!!

A PISTOL IS MORE EFFECTIVE THAN A DOCTOR...
NIKITA!! BRING ME THE ONE IN THE LEFT DRAWER!!
YOU JERK...
"It's time, my friend, it's time."
"My heart requires peace."
"Day after day, files past, and every hour takes away a small part of life."
"...and I and you hoped to live..."

"And look – just now –
we will die."
"This world holds not happiness,"
"but peace and will."

Long I have been
dreaming of another lot;"
"Long ago I, a tired slave, thought to
take flight into a far dwelling."

"of labour and pure joyful moments."
THE PAIN HAS DECREASED A BIT
I WANT TO SEE EVERY-BODY
HE WAS IN SO MUCH PAIN HE LOST CON-SCIOUS-NESS.
IT'S BETTER THIS WAY.
HE ONLY MOANS AND DOESN'T UTTER A SINGLE WORD.
I CAN'T BELIEVE HIS ENDURANCE.
LET'S GIVE HIM SOME OPIUM.
MY NAUGHTY MASHIKA...
AND GENTLE SASHIKA, GOD BLESS YOU...
WHAT IS IT, DAD?
IS GRISHIKA STILL SLEEPING?

THANKS
BUT.. YOU SHOULD RELY ON OTHERS TOO.
MY TENDER ADI..
THIS CHILD ALWAYS SLEEPS
I'M SURE HE'LL GROW UP TO BE IMPORTANT
LEAVE IT TO ME!
TAKE CARE OF THE OLDER NATALIA...
DON'T TALK LIKE THAT..
I MAY DIE
NO...
MY LITTLE NATALIA ALEXANDROVNA

YOU MUSTN'T TAKE HIM SERIOUSLY.
MOM...
DAD IS IN PAIN
...
MASHIKA...
I will take Natashka with me.
IF I DIE...
SASHA...
SECLUDE YOURSELF IN THE VILLAGE AND MOURN FOR TWO OR THREE YEARS
EVERYBODY WILL FORGET THIS AWFUL INCIDENT
AND AFTER THAT...
YOU CAN REMARRY.

HOWEVER
HE MUST BE A FINE MAN

ONLY TO A MAN WHO HAS THE BLESSING
OF YOUR FAMILY AND EVERYBODY
OKAY?
I WON'T MARRY AGAIN
I'M YOUR WIFE

I WONDER IF I WAS ABLE TO CONVEY...
HOW MUCH I LOVE YOU.
UNTIL NOW, YOU HAVE GIVEN ME SO MUCH LOVE IF I COULD RETURN IT TO YOU NOW
EVEN JUST A SMALL BIT...
IS IT TRUE THAT THE POET IS DYING?
DO YOU MEAN ALEXANDER PUSHKIN?
A DUEL!?

"ON AND ON OUR COACH ADVANCES, LITTLE BELL GOES DIN-DIN-DIN..."
"...JUST AS THE PAIN OF SEPARATION IS STRONGER THAN THE SWEET OF DATE..."
"IT'S TIME, MY FRIEND, IT'S TIME..."
ANY TIME I FELT LONESOME, I WAS COMFORTED BY HIS POETRY
THE EVE OF THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY, AN OFFICER OF THE IMPERIAL GUARD...
YOU MEAN THAT FRENCH-MAN, DON'T YOU?
HE WAS COURTING PUSHKIN'S WIFE...
D'ANTHES !!
WHERE IS HIS HOUSE?
IT'S NEXT TO THE MOIKA MILITAPY HEAD-QUARTERS!
HEY YOU, STEP BACK.
I'M FROM THE HOUSE!! LET ME PASS!!
I WENT TO BUY SOME PRESERVED STRAWBERRIES LIKE THE POET ASKED!!

HMN…
DO YOU WANT SOME MORE?
IT'S ENOUGH THEY ARE THE BEST…
IT'S ALL RIGHT… I'M OKAY.
IT'S NOTHING…
PUSHKIN?
WHAT?
IT'S OVE…
DOCTOR…?
IT'S NO…

MY LIFE...
IT'S PAINFUL TO BREATHE
AH...
YOU ARE HERE.
LET'S GO...

DOCTOR... IS HE...?
HE HAS PASSED
AH...

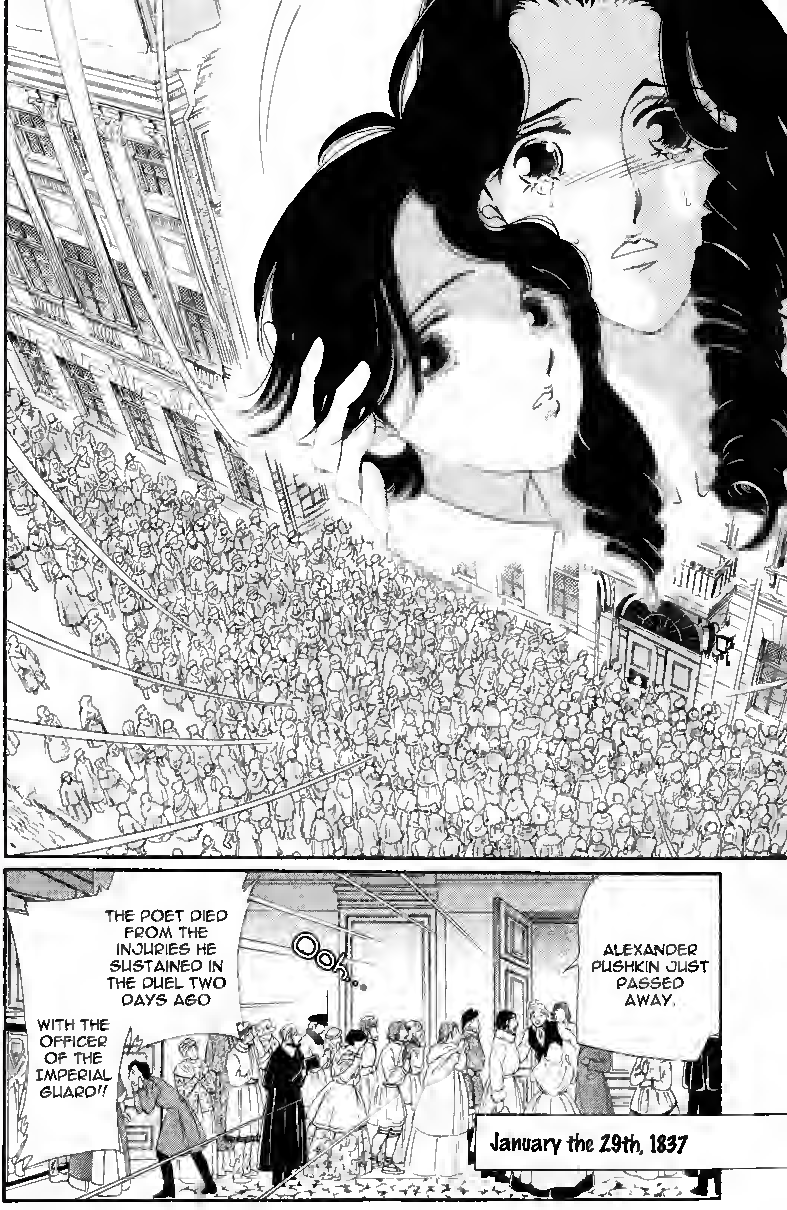
Call

WAIT...
WAIT, SASHA!
DON'T LEAVE ME ALONE...
WAIT
WAIT!
DON'T GO YET!

OPEN
MY LADY
MOM?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
PUSHKIN...

Swoosh

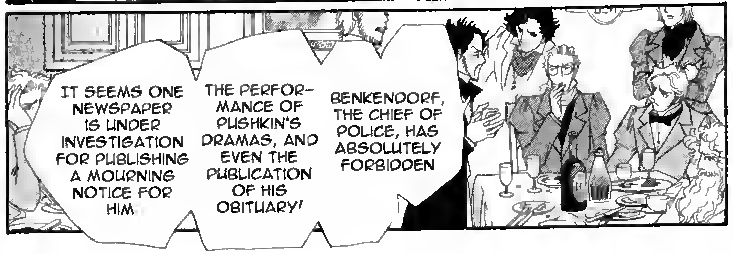
MOM!! SO MANY PEOPLE!
A LOT OF THEM!
LOOK!!

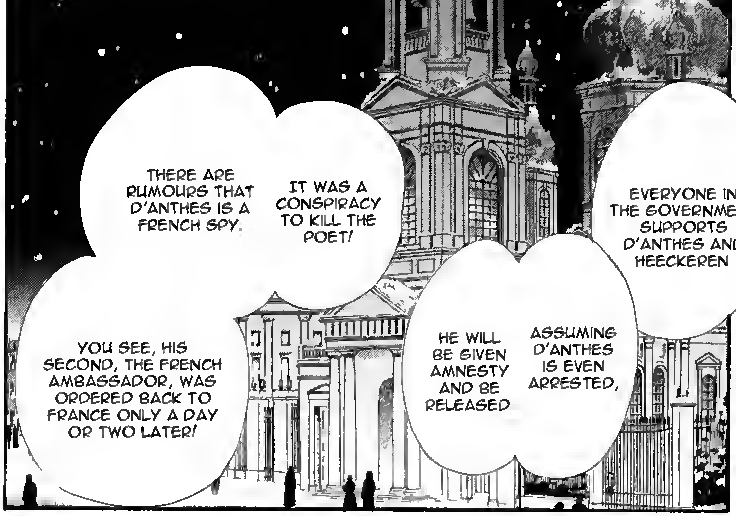

ALEXANDER PUSHKIN JUST PASSED AWAY.
Ooh...
THE POET DIED FROM THE INJURIES HE SUSTAINED IN THE DUEL TWO DAYS AGO
WITH THE OFFICER OF THE IMPERIAL GUARD!!
January the 29th, 1837

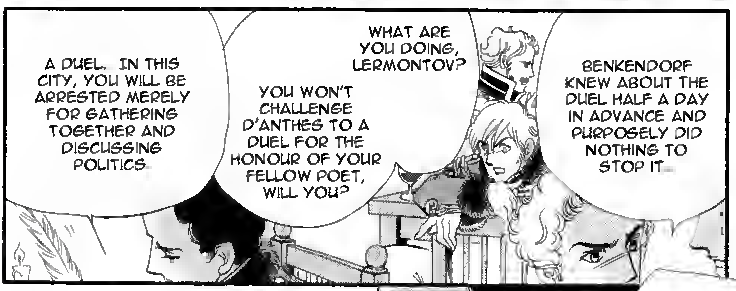
FIRST LIEUTENANT D'ANTHES WAS INJURED.
HE OUGHT TO BE AWARDED A MEDAL.
HE'S THE MAN WHO GOT RID OF THAT EYESORE OF A RUSSIAN LIBERAL.
THERE SEEM TO BE A LOT OF COACHES IN FRONT OF THE EMBASSY. THOSE COACHES BELONG TO HIS ARISTOCRATIC FRIENDS.
THAT MAN'S FATHER IS THE AMBAS-SADOR FROM HOLLAND.

The Wake

HIS FRIEND NASHCHOKIN LENT THEM TO HIM ON THE DAY HE WENT TO PROPOSE MARRIAGE TO NATALIA.
THESE ARE THE CLOTHES THAT PUSHKIN CALLED "THE CLOAK AND COAT OF HAPPINESS"
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
WHY DOES PUSHKIN NOT WEAR THE SUIT THAT THE TSAR GAVE HIM?
THE TSAR WOULD BE UNHAPPY WITH YOU IF HE WERE TO LEARN OF IT.


IT SEEMS ONE NEWSPAPER IS UNDER INVESTIGATION FOR PUBLISHING A MOURNING NOTICE FOR HIM.
THE PERFOR-MANCE OF PUSHKIN'S DRAMAS, AND EVEN THE PUBLICATION OF HIS OBITUARY!
BENKENDORF, THE CHIEF OF POLICE, HAS ABSOLUTELY FORBIDDEN


THERE ARE RUMOURS THAT D'ANTHES IS A FRENCH SPY.
IT WAS A CONSPIRACY TO KILL THE POET!
EVERYONE IN THE GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS D'ANTHES AND HEECKEREN
YOU SEE, HIS SECOND, THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR, WAS ORDERED BACK TO FRANCE ONLY A DAY OR TWO LATER!
HE WILL BE GIVEN AMNESTY AND BE RELEASED
ASSUMING D'ANTHES IS EVEN ARRESTED,


A DUEL. IN THIS CITY, YOU WILL BE ARRESTED MERELY FOR GATHERING TOGETHER AND DISCUSSING POLITICS
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, LERMONTOV?
YOU WON'T CHALLENGE D'ANTHES TO A DUEL FOR THE HONOUR OF YOUR FELLOW POET, WILL YOU?
BENKENDORF KNEW ABOUT THE DUEL HALF A DAY IN ADVANCE AND PURPOSELY DID NOTHING TO STOP IT.

"The Poet's dead!

He fell, by rumour slandered,

Lead in his breast and
thirsting for revenge,

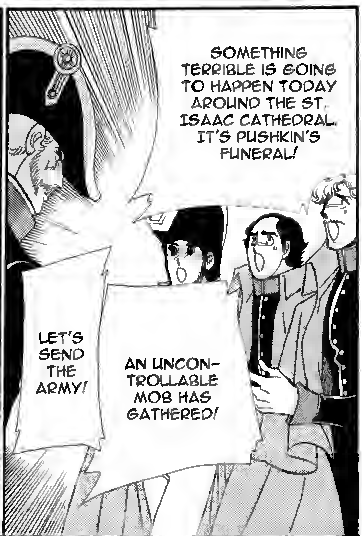
Hanging his proud head!"

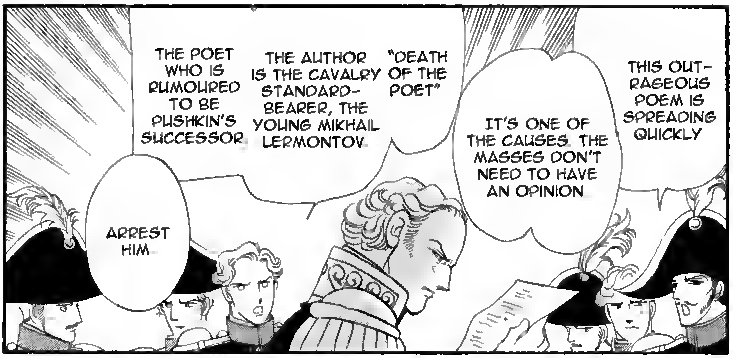
"The Poet's soul could not endure
Petty insult's disgrace.
Against society he rose,
Alone, as always...
and was slain!"
"Cold-bloodedly
his murderer
Took aim...
there was no
chance of flight."
"His empty heart
beat evenly.
The pistol steady
in his hand."
"No wonder...
from far away
The will of fate sent him to us
Like hundreds of his fellow vagrants
In search of luck and rank."

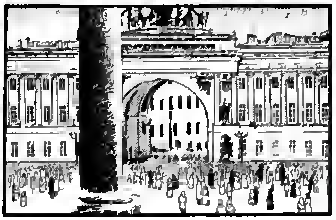
"With impudence
he mocked and scorned
The tongue and mores
of this strange land;
He could not spare our glory,
Nor in that bloody moment know
gainst what he'd raised his hand!"

February the 1st

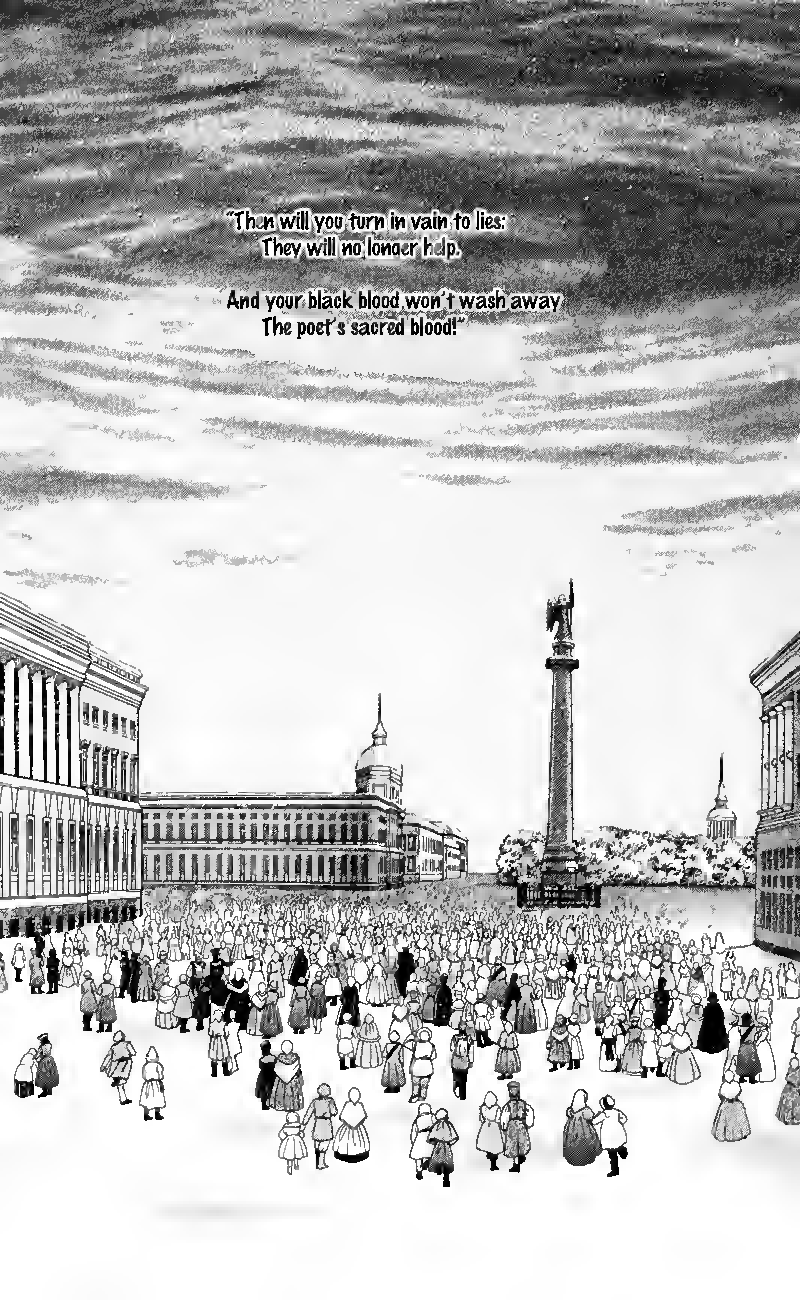
SUSPEND THE FUNERAL SERVICE IN ST ISAAC!!
REMOVE IT TO A SMALL AND UNKNOWN CHURCH
IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN SUCH UPROAR!!
TWENTY THOUSAND NO, THIRTY THOUSAND PEOPLE WON'T LISTEN!! IT COULD LEAD TO A REBELLION


SOMETHING TERRIBLE IS GOING TO HAPPEN TODAY AROUND THE ST. ISAAC CATHEDRAL. IT'S PUSHKIN'S FUNERAL!
AN UNCONTROLLABLE MOB HAS GATHERED!
LET'S SEND THE ARMY!


THE POET WHO IS RUMOURED TO BE PUSHKIN'S SUCCESSOR
THE AUTHOR IS THE CAVALRY STANDARD-BEARER, THE YOUNG MIKHAIL LERMONTOV
"DEATH OF THE POET"
ARREST HIM
IT'S ONE OF THE CAUSES. THE MASSES DON'T NEED TO HAVE AN OPINION
THIS OUTRAGEOUS POEM IS SPREADING QUICKLY



"And you, the offspring arrogant
Of fathers known for malice,"
"Crushing with slavish heels the ruins
Of clans aggrieved by fortune's game!
You, greedy hordes around the throne,"
You hide beneath
the canopy of law"
"Killers of Freedom,
Genius and Glory!
"But justice
also comes from God,
corruption's friends!
The judge most terrible
awaits you:"


"Then will you turn in vain to lies:
They will no longer help.
And your black blood won't wash away
The poet's sacred blood!"

Military Tribunal
THEREFORE...
GEORGES CHARLES DE HEECKEREN D'ANTHES IS FOUND GUILTY,
AND SENTENCED TO DEATH!
HOWEVER, HIS MAJESTY HAS GRANTED YOU AMNESTY.
YOU WILL BE STRIPPED OF YOUR RANK IN RUSSIA AND DEPORTED!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? THAT FOREIGNER KILLED RUSSIA'S TREASURE!
HOW CRUEL!! THAT'S TOO HARSH FOR A DUEL! PUSHKIN'S SECOND, DANZAS, WAS ONLY SENTENCED TO CONFINEMENT.
HE IS A MURDERER!! THE SENTENCE IS TOO LIGHT!

I HAVE ALSO RECEIVED AN ORDER TO RETURN TO MY COUNTRY OF HOLLAND. IT'S NOT CLEAR IF I WILL BE OFFERED ANOTHER POST THERE.
HIS MAJESTY HAS DECIDED TO CAST ME AWAY.
THIS MANSION AND MY BELONGINGS WILL BE PUT UP FOR AUCTION.
WE DEMAND A RIGHTEOUS JUDGEMENT IN THE NAME OF THE TSAR!!
EVEN COUNT NESSELRODE
OUR FRIENDS WHO HAD ONCE SPOILED US HAVE NOW TURNED THEIR BACKS ON US.
I KNEW I HAD ANGERED THE TSAR.
ROAR
ROAR
FOR THE PRESENT, I WILL RETURN TO MY OLD HOME IN FRANCE.
I WILL THINK ON WHAT HAPPENED LATER.
AND EKATERINA...
ARE YOU GOING TO STAY IN RUSSIA?

I'M...
GOING TO HAVE A BABY
IN OCTOBER,
LET'S, ALL THREE OF US, WAIT
FOR OUR FAMILY TO GROW
IN YOUR HOMETOWN IN FRANCE
YOUR CHILD WILL BE BORN
EKATERINA

THANKS, EKATERINA...
YOU ARE OUR SAVIOUR
LET'S GO TO FRANCE TOGETHER
GEORGES...
WE WILL START OVER
FOR SURE...

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The Barcardle Team

Bronze no Tenshi
Volume 7 Chapter 28

Scanned and Translated by Otohime

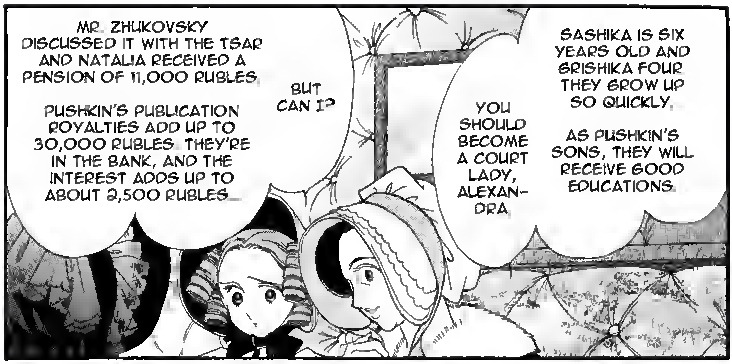
Proofread and Edited by Mario

Barmolle
www.mangaharness.com/

Vol. 28 Eternal Angel

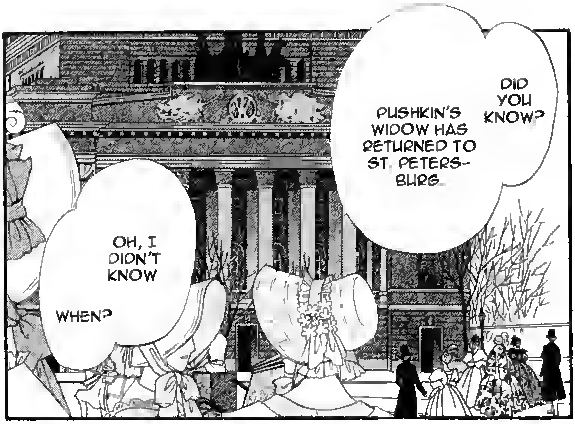
1839,
two years after Pushkin's death.
"What's in my name for you?
What good?
It will die down: a wave's sad sound
On sands where it has splashed aground,
A nightly echo in the wood.
There will it lie as dead among
names in your book, as the design
of someone's epitaphic line
in some unfathomable tongue."
MOM, ARE YOU ASLEEP?
GRISHI-KA

I WASN'T ABLE TO VISIT YOUR DAD'S GRAVE FOR SOME TIME,
SO LET ME SPEND A BIT MORE TIME WITH HIM, OKAY?
AND NATA-SHIKA
SASHIKA TOO
AND MA-SHI-KA
NATALIA! AUNT SAYS THAT WE'LL DEPART SOON.
Sasha...
I've followed your last request and spent these past two years in my parents' home in the village, with help from my brother.
WE ARE GOING TO ST. PETERS-BURG NOW!
COME, CHILDREN, GET IN!
IT'S MY PLEASURE!
I'VE BEEN SO LONELY IN ST. PETERSBURG WITHOUT YOU!
I'M IN HEAVEN KNOWING I WON'T HAVE TO SEE MY SISTER-IN-LAW AGAIN!
THANKS FOR COMING TO PICK US UP, AUNT!
Alexandra and our elder brother's wife were always arguing with each other.
Our aunt has advised us to accompany her back to St. Petersburg.


MR. ZHUKOVSKY DISCUSSED IT WITH THE TSAR AND NATALIA RECEIVED A PENSION OF 11,000 RUBLES.
PUSHKIN'S PUBLICATION ROYALTIES ADD UP TO 30,000 RUBLES. THEY'RE IN THE BANK, AND THE INTEREST ADDS UP TO ABOUT 2,500 RUBLES.
BUT CAN I?
YOU SHOULD BECOME A COURT LADY, ALEXANDRA.
SASHKA IS SIX YEARS OLD AND GRISHKA FOUR. THEY GROW UP SO QUICKLY.
AS PUSHKIN'S SONS, THEY WILL RECEIVE GOOD EDUCATIONS.

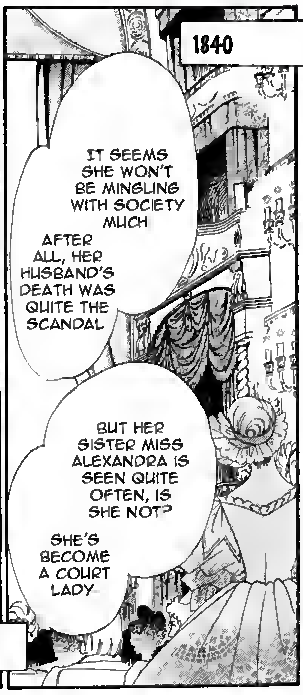
DON'T WORRY. YOU CAN RELY ON ME.
YOU SHOULD MARRY A RICH GENTLEMAN THIS TIME.
BESIDES, WHEN YOU ARRIVE IN ST PETERSBURG THE MEN WILL FLOCK TO YOU
YOU SHOULD JUST WITHDRAW THE MONEY FROM THE BANK ACCOUNT WHEN YOU'RE IN A CRISIS.
BUT THEY ALWAYS AVOID GIVING IT TO ME.
1,500 RUBLES
AND THE PENSION YOU RECEIVE FROM YOUR FAMILY?
WE SHOULDN'T LAY HANDS ON IT, NO MATTER OUR ECONOMIC TROUBLES. IT WILL BE THEIRS WHEN THEY ARE ADULTS.
STOP IT!
THAT MONEY BELONGS TO HIS CHILDREN!

YOU ARE STILL ONLY 27 YEARS OLD. YOU ARE AT THE PEAK OF WOMAN-HOOD.
HE WISHED FOR YOUR HAPPINESS MORE THAN ANYONE
BUT DIDN'T SASHA GIVE YOU HIS BLESSING TO MARRY AGAIN AFTER TWO YEARS?
BUT I DON'T WANT TO ENTER HIGH SOCIETY OR MARRY AGAIN
BUT—
STOP, AUNT. TEN YEARS AGO, NATALIA HAD A HARD TIME
BECAUSE OUR MOTHER WANTED HER TO MARRY FOR THE FAMILY'S BENEFIT
LET HER DO IT FOR LOVE THIS TIME
THANKS, ALEXANDRA
BUT I WAS ABLE TO MARRY SASHA
THAT WAS AN UNEXPECT-EDLY GOOD OUTCOME.
BUT I DON'T FEEL LIKE IT RIGHT NOW.
I WILL DEVOTE MYSELF TO MY CHILDREN, AUNT.



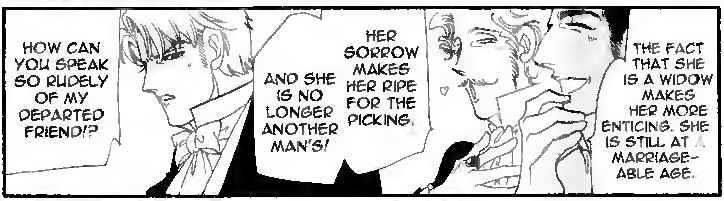
I will live peacefully with them.

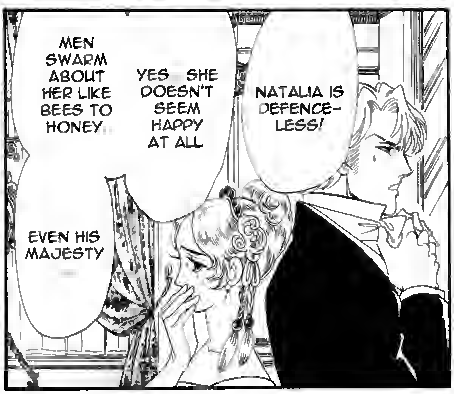
PUSHKIN'S WIDOW WAS SHOPPING FOR SOME CHRISTMAS PRESENTS AT AN ENGLISHMAN'S SHOP LAST WEEK
THERE, SHE HAPPENED TO MEET THE TSAR, WHO WAS ALSO THERE TO BUY PRESENTS
OH...
DID HIS MAJESTY IGNORE HER?
1841, Christmas


1840
IT SEEMS SHE WON'T BE MINGLING WITH SOCIETY MUCH
AFTER ALL, HER HUSBAND'S DEATH WAS QUITE THE SCANDAL
BUT HER SISTER MISS ALEXANDRA IS SEEN QUITE OFTEN, IS SHE NOT?
SHE'S BECOME A COURT LADY

QUITE THE OPPOSITE.
HE ORDERED HER AUNT, MRS. ZAGRYAZHSKAYA
TO BRING NATALIA TO THE COURT BALLS FROM THAT DAY ON.
It's a scandal!
MY GOOD-NESS!
1842

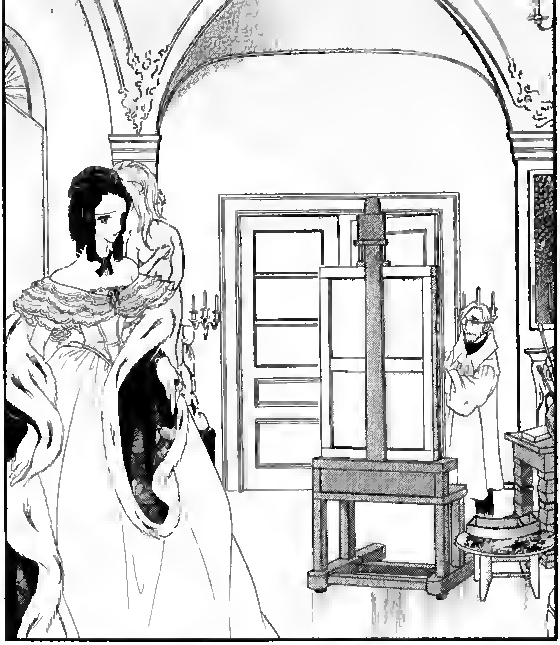
1843
SOME-HOW...
SINCE MRS. BECOME A WIDOW,
SHE HAS BECOME MORE AND MORE BEAUTIFUL! ASTONISHING!!


HOW CAN YOU SPEAK SO RUDELY OF MY DEPARTED FRIEND!?
AND SHE IS NO LONGER ANOTHER MAN'S!
HER SORROW MAKES HER RIPE FOR THE PICKING.
THE FACT THAT SHE IS A WIDOW MAKES HER MORE ENTICING. SHE IS STILL AT MARRIAGE-ABLE AGE.


MEN SWARM ABOUT HER LIKE BEES TO HONEY
YES SHE DOESN'T SEEM HAPPY AT ALL
NATALIA IS DEFENCE-LESS!
EVEN HIS MAJESTY

I'M SORRY, PRINCE VYAZEMSKY!
PLEASE DON'T CHALLENGE ME TO A DUEL...
DEAR!

EVERYBODY THINKS
WHAT?
THE TSAR'S ATTITUDE IS WORRISOME
THERE HAVE BEEN RUMOURS
THE TSAR AND THE EMPRESS HAD BEEN A HARMONIOUS COUPLE
HOWEVER, SHE HAS FALLEN ILL, SO THEY CANNOT HAVE INTIMATE RELATIONS
HIS MAJESTY HAS SECRETLY TAKEN SOME LOVERS
NATALIA MUST BE ONE OF THEM


THE TSAR HAS ASKED ME FOR A PORTRAIT USING YOU AS A MODEL
YOU ARE TO WEAR THE DRESS YOU WORE THE OTHER DAY.
I AM HONOURED
BUT WHY A PORTRAIT OF ME?

AH..
YES?

EX... EXCUSE ME.

It can't be...
YO... YOUR MAJESTY!
THUD

YOUR MAJESTY, PLEASE STOP YOUR INAPPRO-PRIATE ADVANCES!
WAS THIS PORTRAIT AN EXCUSE?
Grip
CERTAINLY NOT I WANT BOTH—
A PORTRAIT AND THE REAL THING!
YOUR MAJESTY HAS THE EMPRESS
I'VE HEARD YOU EVEN HAVE SOME OTHER LOVERS
I HAVE LONG DESIRED YOU
BUT THAT POET ALWAYS STOOD BETWEEN US
NOW THAT RECKLESS MAN IS NO LONGER HERE
!

IT'S THE FIRST TIME A WOMAN HAS THROWN OIL AT ME
THE NAIVE YOUNG GIRL HAS BECOME A FEISTY WOMAN!
I LIKE IT
AH...
BE MINE
IN EXCHANGE, I WILL GIVE YOU MORE BEAUTIFUL DRESSES
ANYTHING YOU WANT
IN EXCHANGE FOR BECOMING YOUR LOVER?
ARE YOU OPPOSED TO IT?
OF COURSE!!

DO YOU WANT A HUSBAND?
I HAVE NO NEED!
YOU SHOULD RECONSIDER
YOUR CHILDREN NEED A FATHER.
AND YOU NEED A MAN WHO CAN PROTECT YOU FROM OTHER MEN WHO DESIRE YOU.
A MAN UPON WHOM YOU CAN RELY, AND WHO WILL SUPPORT YOUR CHILDREN.
PUSHKIN...
I WON'T BECOME SOMEONE'S MISTRESS!
EVEN MY DEPARTED HUSBAND TOLD ME I SHOULD MARRY AGAIN IF I MEET A GOOD MAN
HOWEVER,
AS ONE OF MY LOYAL SUBJECTS,
HE WILL OBEY MY ORDERS.
MARRY ONE OF THE WORTHLESS MEN WHO SWARM ABOUT YOU
—VERY WELL.

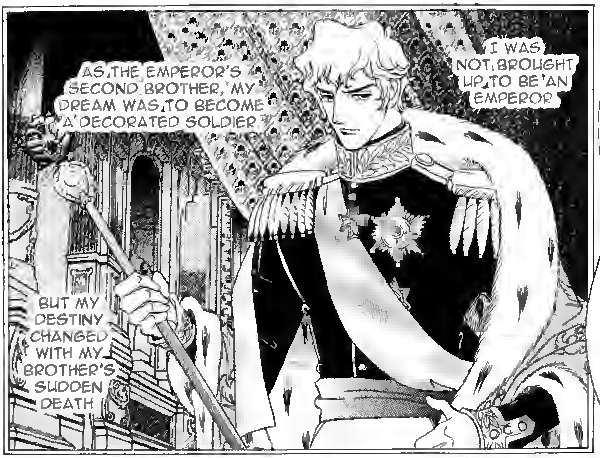
YOU WOULD CLAIM THE RIGHT TO BE WITH THE BRIDE OF ONE OF YOUR SUBJECTS,
LIKE A TYRANNICAL FEUDAL LORD FROM BARBARIAN TIMES?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, TYRANNICAL?
I'M MERELY HELPING YOU TO GAIN SOME STATUS
FOR AGES, MEN IN THE COURT,
NO, MEN ALL OVER RUSSIA, MEN THE WORLD OVER, CONSIDER IT AN HONOUR TO MARRY A WOMAN WHO HAS HAD RELATIONS WITH THE TSAR
PUSHKIN DIDN'T THINK THAT WAS AN HONOUR
HE
HE WAS NO RUSSIAN!
WITH THAT BRONZE SKIN AND THAT CURLED HAIR
HE WAS DESCENDED FROM AFRICANS!!
THEN SO ARE MY CHILDREN. EVERYBODY IS.
PUSHKIN SAID THAT ALL OF MANKIND CAN TRACE THEIR ANCESTRY BACK TO AFRICANS!

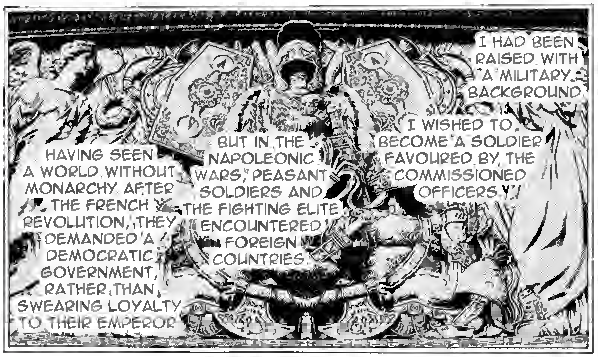
GRIP
DON'T EMBARRASS ME!
I WANT TO SAVE YOU IN MY OWN WAY YOU MUSTN'T ANGER ME
I...
WHILE I WAS IN SOLITUDE IN THE COUNTRY-SIDE, I READ HIS BOOKS...
DON'T BEHAVE LIKE A THOUGHT-LESS MAN
I WANT YOU TO BE A LOVELY WOMAN
I'M RESPON-SIBLE FOR HIS DEATH,
SO I THOUGHT I WOULD AT LEAST READ THEM
WHEN I WAS A CHILD, I NEVER READ ANY BOOKS
IT PAINED ME TO HEAR HIS VOICE!
BUT HIS SPIRIT ENTERED ME...
I FELT AS THOUGH I UNDERSTOOD HIM FOR THE FIRST TIME...

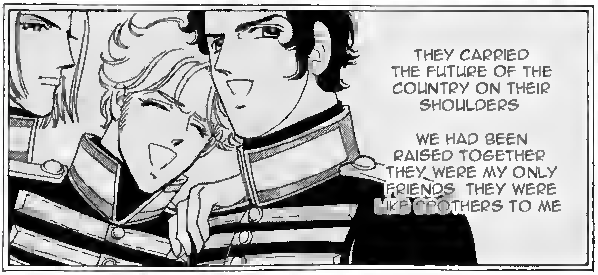
HE...
LOVED RUSSIA, THE TSAR AND EVERYTHING ABOUT THIS COUNTRY.
HE WANTED TO EXPRESS HIS LOVE OF RUSSIA IN THE SERVICE OF A GOOD TSAR.
EVEN IF YOUR MAJESTY CONSIDERED HIM A HINDRANCE...
HE ADORED YOU UNTIL THE VERY END!!
YOU, TOO...
DID YOU BELIEVE THAT NONSENSE?
THAT POEM THAT LERMONTOV WROTE?
DO YOU BELIEVE THAT I INCITED THAT DUEL?

I
I HAPPENED TO MEET FIRST LIEUTENANT LERMONTOV
IT WAS THREE MONTHS BEFORE HE DIED...
IT WAS A PARTY TWO DAYS BEFORE HE WAS TO LEAVE FOR THE FRONT LINES OF THE WAR
HE WAS A YOUNG MAN WITH A LOOK OF SORROW IN HIS EYES.
BUT HE WAS A GENUINE PERSON, NO MATTER HIS DIFFICULTIES
I THOUGHT WE COULD BE FRIENDS, AND YET...
LAST YEAR HE WAS KILLED IN A DUEL IN THE CAUCASUS MOUNTAINS!
JUST LIKE MY HUSBAND...
DO YOU WANT TO BE ARRESTED!?
TO CRITICIZE ME IS A SERIOUS CRIME!

IS THAT A CRIME? PLEASE, TELL ME
TO SEEK TO KNOW SOMETHING I DIDN'T KNOW
THERE ARE SOME THINGS BETTER NOT TO KNOW,
NATALIA NIKOLAEVNA
I DIDN'T HATE PUSHKIN AS A PERSON,
BUT I AM THE TSAR
I COULDN'T IGNORE HIM
HE WAS A MAN
CAPABLE OF DESTROYING ME AND THIS COUNTRY,
HAD HE USED HIS TALENT I WAS CONVINCED OF THAT
BUT HE WAS A PACIFIST TO THE END, TO THE POINT OF STUPIDITY


I WAS NOT BROUGHT UP TO BE AN EMPEROR
AS THE EMPEROR'S SECOND BROTHER, MY DREAM WAS TO BECOME A DECORATED SOLDIER
BUT MY DESTINY CHANGED WITH MY BROTHER'S SUDDEN DEATH


I HAD BEEN RAISED WITH A MILITARY BACKGROUND
I WISHED TO BECOME A SOLDIER FAVOURED BY THE COMMISSIONED OFFICERS
BUT IN THE NAPOLEONIC WARS, PEASANT SOLDIERS AND THE FIGHTING ELITE ENCOUNTERED FOREIGN COUNTRIES
HAVING SEEN A WORLD WITHOUT MONARCHY AFTER THE FRENCH REVOLUTION, THEY DEMANDED A DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT, RATHER THAN SWEARING LOYALTY TO THEIR EMPEROR


THEY CARRIED THE FUTURE OF THE COUNTRY ON THEIR SHOULDERS
WE HAD BEEN RAISED TOGETHER THEY WERE MY ONLY FRIENDS THEY WERE LIKE BROTHERS TO ME

IT ALL BEGAN SEVENTEEN YEARS AGO, WITH THE DECEMBRIST REVOLT
THERE WAS A COUP D'ETAT THE DAY I WAS CROWNED AS TSAR

WHAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN THE MOST GLORIOUS DAY IN MY LIFE WAS HELL.
YOU CANNOT IMAGINE HOW DESPERATE AND UPSET I WAS AT THEIR BETRAYAL
PUSHKIN'S POETRY FANNED THE SPARKS OF THEIR IDEAS INTO FLAMES
AND THEY POINTED THEIR GUNS AT ME
MY YOUNG EXCELLENT FRIENDS PERHAPS MIGHT HAVE ENRICHED RUSSIA
I SUFFER WHEN I THINK THAT IT MAY HAVE BEEN A MISTAKE TO GET RID OF THEM... IT WAS A NIGHTMARE.
I SENTENCED MY CHILDHOOD FRIENDS TO EXECUTION.
SEVERAL SOLDIERS WERE EXILED TO SIBERIA
CASTING THEM OUT OF THE HEART OF RUSSIA, I PUT AN END TO THE DECEMBRIST REVOLT.
SO TO ESCAPE FROM THAT NIGHTMARE, I WORKED AND WORKED, IMPOSING SEVERE DUTIES ON MYSELF
BUT PUSHKIN WAS STILL THERE.

I WANTED FOR HIM TO BE A COMMON PERSON. I WAS SUSPICIOUS AND HAD TO KEEP AN EYE ON HIM TO COMFORT MYSELF.
HAD BEEN THE SOUL OF THE DECEMBRISTS. I WORRIED THAT HE WOULD HAVE "SUCCESS."
I FELT MORE AT EASE TO DISDAIN HIM AS NOTHING BUT A PRETENTIOUS WRITER.
BUT THEN I READ THE CAPTAIN'S DAUGHTER
I THOUGHT TO MYSELF "WHAT IS THIS!"
THERE WAS NO DOUBT IN MY MIND THAT HE WAS A GENIUS WITH A GIFT!!
BUT I WAS FIRM TO CARRY ON WITH ABSOLUTE MONARCHY!
BUT WHAT IF THE ROMANOV DYNASTY IS CRUELLY MURDERED ALONG WITH THE NOBILITY,
LIKE THE FRENCH BOURBON DYNASTY OF FIFTY YEARS AGO?
EVERY EUROPEAN MONARCH IS HAUNTED BY THE SAME QUESTION.
WE MUST FORM AN ALLIANCE TO ANNIHILATE THE REVOLUTIONARIES!!

I GOT RID OF PUSHKIN,
FINALLY
FOR THE SAKE OF BECOMING RUSSIA'S ALMIGHTY GUARDIAN,
AS A TRUE EMPEROR SHOULD BE!
HE IS...

It's said that after Pushkin's death, Tsar Nicholas deviated from his path, being constantly at war.

After a decisive defeat in the Crimean War of 1853, Nicholas died.

Official reports name the cause of death as pneumonia, but it was rumoured that he committed suicide by drinking poison.

MAKING PROGRESS, SLOWLY BUT SURELY, TO PROTECT THOSE I LOVE.

NOW THAT I HAVE LEARNED HOW THE WORLD WORKS.

I MUST LIVE IN THAT WAY...

LIKE PUSHKIN DID.

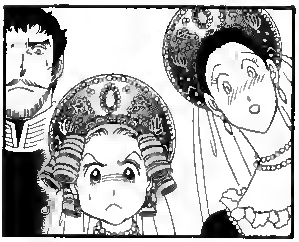
I THINK... THAT...

YOUR MAJESTY WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER OFF JUST BEING A COMMONER.

BANG

Eight years later, 1851
NAPOLEON'S NEPHEW,
NAPOLEON III, HAS SEIZED POWER IN A COUP D'ETAT
TO CONTROL IT, NAPOLEON III COULD HAVE SENT ENVOYS
TO BERLIN, VIENNA AND ST. PETERSBURG!
THE INTERNAL REPUBLICAN FACTION IS STILL STRONG
IT WORKED OUT?
HE'S ABOLISHED REPUBLICANISM
AND INTENDS TO RESTORE A DICTATORIAL IMPERIALISM LIKE THAT OF HIS UNCLE NAPOLEON
MOREOVER GUESS WHO ONE OF THE ENVOYS IS
A ROYALIST AND NATIONAL CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY MEMBER,
BARON GEORGES CHARLES DE HEECKEREN D'ANTHES!

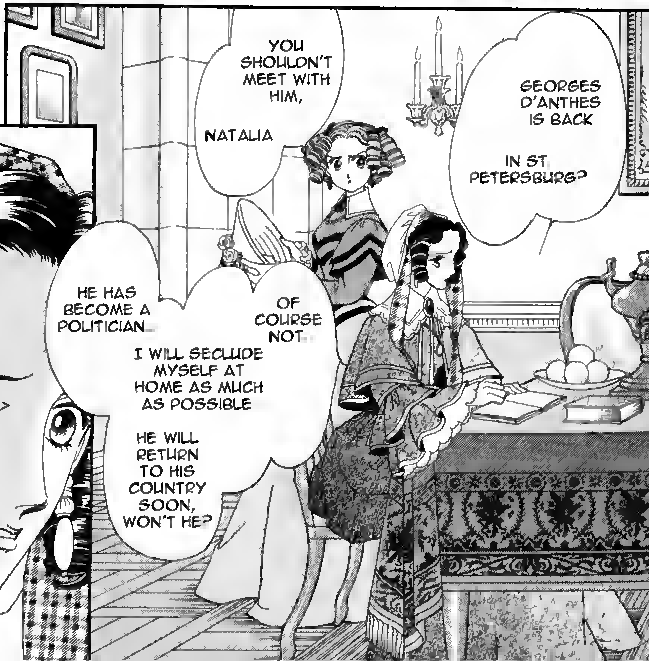
IT HAS BEEN A WHILE, YOUR MAJESTY NICHOLAS I.
THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING ME TO RETURN TO RUSSIA, DESPITE MY BEING EXILED FIFTEEN YEARS AGO
YOU ARE NOW A DIPLOMAT OF THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT
IT IS SOMETHING TO BE PROUD OF
RAISE YOUR HEAD, FORMER FIRST LIEUTENANT D'ANTHES



I DIDN'T BELIEVE IT UNTIL I SAW THOSE EYES.

IT'S THE TALK OF THE COURT!

HOW COULD THE MAN WHO KILLED MR PUSHKIN APPEAR AGAIN SO NONCHALANTLY.



YOU SHOULDN'T MEET WITH HIM, NATALIA

GEORGES D'ANTHES IS BACK IN ST. PETERSBURG?

OF COURSE NOT.

I WILL SECLUDE MYSELF AT HOME AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE

HE HAS BECOME A POLITICIAN.

HE WILL RETURN TO HIS COUNTRY SOON, WON'T HE?

HE LOOKS LIKE A BUSINESSMAN WHO HAS ACHIEVED MUCH SUCCESS
SINCE EKATERINA PASSED AWAY GIVING BIRTH TO THEIR FOURTH CHILD, HE HAS REMAINED SINGLE AND MADE A SUCCESSFUL CAREER FOR HIMSELF AS A POLITICIAN
FOR EIGHT YEARS,
.....
NATALIA...
WE HAD NO NEWS OF HIM AFTER EKATERINA DIED
SINCE WE NEVER REPLIED TO HER LETTERS,
WE COULDN'T FORGIVE EKATERINA FOR GOING ABROAD WITH THE MAN WHO KILLED MR. PUSHKIN
COME BACK HERE AND FETCH ME IN AN HOUR THEN WE WILL DEPART
GEORGES D'ANTHES
YES
THUD

Ahaha

MRS PUSHKIN?
AH
TURN

IS YOUR LEG ALRIGHT?
...
THE HEEL OF YOUR SHOE IS BROKEN...
FIFTEEN YEARS HAVE PASSED.
SHE IS NINETEEN YEARS OLD NOW.
SHE HAS GROWN UP A LOT!
WHAT?
THE GIRL YOU SAW WALKING BEFORE WAS MY ELDEST DAUGHTER, MASHIKA.
THAT WAS MASHIKA.
SHE WAS CONCEIVED IN RUSSIA AND BORN IN FRANCE THAT YEAR.
I HAVE TWO OTHER DAUGHTERS, AND THE YOUNGEST IS A BOY OF EIGHT.
OH, YES. FIFTEEN YEARS...
THAT'S THE AGE OF MY ELDEST DAUGHTER.

COUNTING MY DAUGHTER'S YEARS,
I KNOW HOW MANY YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE THAT INCIDENT.
AND COUNTING MY SON'S YEARS,
I BITTERLY REMEMBER THE DEATH OF MY WIFE EKATERINA.
READING EKATERINA'S LETTERS, I KNEW SHE WAS HAPPY.
YOU AND HER FATHER-IN-LAW, BARON HEECKEREN, WERE VERY KIND...
I'M SURE SHE DIED FEELING SATISFAC-TION.
SINCE SHE CAME ALONG WITH ME,
WE TURNED FROM COMPLETE STRANGERS INTO A TRUE FAMILY.
SO THAT'S WHY YOU'RE HERE—
MASHIKA IS GOING TO GET MARRIED
THAT MEANS I WILL BE A GRANDMOTHER SOON.
I—
CAME HERE TODAY AS A CHAPERONE FOR MASHIKA
BUT I LET THEM GET AWAY FROM ME. I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR LOVERS TO BE ALONE TOGETHER
IT'S UNBELIEV-ABLE—

BECAUSE YOU ARE STILL SO BEAUTIFUL
IT'S LIKE A MIRACLE
I HEAR THAT YOU ARE VERY BUSY WITH YOUR WORK
YOU HAVE BECOME A FINE MAN
IT'S FULL OF MEMORIES BETWEEN THE TWO OF US
DO YOU REMEMBER?
I RETURN TO FRANCE TODAY.
I WANTED TO SEE THIS PLACE BEFORE I LEFT
YES...
THAT TIME IN AUTUMN,
WHEN WE WERE MASHIKA'S AGE...
FOR THE FIRST TIME...
I BECAME AWARE OF YOU

AT FIRST I HATED YOU...
YES, AS DID I
IT COULDN'T BE HELPED.
I...
I GOT MARRIED A SECOND TIME
SEVEN YEARS AGO
AND I GAVE BIRTH TO THREE MORE DAUGHTERS
WHEN?

YOU KNOW THE MAN
GENERAL PIOTR LANSKOY
YES... HE WAS MY FRIEND.
WHEN WE MET AT IDALIA'S HOME,
YOU ASKED HIM TO STAND GUARD, RIGHT?
DID HE TELL YOU ABOUT IT?
.....
THAT TIME... HE CURSED ME.
I ASKED HIM TO BE A LOOKOUT WHILE WE HAD OUR RENDEZVOUS, AND I WENT TO IDALIA'S HOUSE HAPPILY.
WHILE HE WAS THERE, HE SAW YOU, THE CELEBRATED BEAUTY, CRYING.
EVEN THOUGH I WAS HIS FRIEND, HE WAS APPALLED TO SEE THE WIFE OF A WRITER HE RESPECTED IN THAT SITUATION.
WHILE I LEFT IN A GOOD MOOD...
AFTER THAT,
HE SAW YOU CRYING AGAIN.
HE TOLD ME HE HATED ME AT THAT MOMENT.
Damn, what a coward!
WACK
GIGGLE
...
YES...
HE PROPOSED TO ME DESPITE KNOWING MY PAST MISTAKES.

HE ALWAYS BOASTED ABOUT BEING THE SAME AGE AS PUSHKIN
AND... HE WORE THE SAME WHITE IMPERIAL GUARD UNIFORM AS YOU
IT WAS NICE.
HE LOVES PUSHKIN'S CHILDREN LIKE THEY'RE HIS OWN...
I'M GRATEFUL TO HIM
I SEE...
YOU SEEM HAPPY NOW.
YES, I AM
I'M GLAD.
I MEAN IT FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART
I HEARD THAT WHEN YOU RETURN TO YOUR COUNTRY,
YOU MAY BECOME THE YOUNGEST PERSON TO BE APPOINTED AS A SENATOR

YOU'VE ACCOM-PLISHED ALL YOUR WISHES AT SUCH A YOUNG AGE YOU MUST FEEL FULFIL-MENT.
NO... THERE WERE MANY WISHES THAT WERE BEYOND MY REACH.
WHAT I MOST DEARLY WISHED FOR TURNED OUT TO BE AN IMPOSSIBLE DREAM. I LEARNED THAT FIFTEEN YEARS AGO...
THAT DREAM WAS... TO BE BY YOUR SIDE.

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO...
TAP
TAP
TAP
I WON THE DUEL AGAINST PUSHKIN, BUT MY SOUL WAS SLAIN.
I WAS UTTERLY DEFEATED
I LEFT THIS COUNTRY HAVING LOST EVERYTHING
BUT I GAINED SOMETHING IMPORTANT. THEN...
I FELT SO SMALL
COMPARED TO HIM
THAT DAY... WHEN I CONFRONTED PUSHKIN IN THAT SNOWY FIELD, I FELT IT.

THERE WAS A VAST UNIVERSE IN HIS EYES.
THROUGH THEM, HE SAID TO ME, THE MAN WHO WAS TRYING TO KILL HIM.
"Try to accomplish what you must now, when you are at your best. Fight be alive."
HE SAID, THAT TO ONE LIKE ME.
IT WAS A HEAVEN-SENT REVELATION

"I have erected a monument to myself.
I shall not wholly die. In my sacred lyre
My soul shall outlive my dust and escape corruption-"
"What's in my name to you?"
"All the lost and trite
In new and wild insurrection,
Within your soul it won't excite
The pure and kind recollections
But silently, in time of anguish
Pronounce it softly while grieving
Say that my memory won't vanish."

"That there's a heart

in which I'm living...

My angel."

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